

Hafa Adai!

A Marine's service, a son's quest. **PAGE 2**

Manglona wants to exclude his siblings' expert witness. **PAGE 3**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Man still not found

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Search-and-rescue teams failed again yesterday to locate the 34-year-old Korean man who went missing after swimming with his wife in the waters off Forbidden Island in Kagman last Saturday. **See MAN on Page 4**



A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter resumes the open ocean search for the missing Korean male who drowned at the Forbidden Island last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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ON CW-1 PROGRAM EXTENSION

Kilili: Our working group is close

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has shared in a social media post that the working group formed to negotiate a CW-1 program extension is "close" to getting a deal done.

In a video outlining his



Sablan

legislative plans for 2018, Sablan said that the bipartisan working group led by Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) is close to reaching an agreement on the provisions of the draft legislation to extend the CW-1 program.

"I think 2019 is too early—we will need foreign workers in the Marianas economy even beyond

2019—so I oppose the cuts [to the program]," he said.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has reduced the number of foreign workers that would be accommodated under the CW-1 program from 12,998 to 9,998 for fiscal year 2018 and would deduct an additional 4,998 slots in the program in fiscal year 2019 to get the program's phase out by Dec. 31, 2019, ready.

See KILILI on Page 4

ICE needs 2 more officers in NMI

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

The local division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement needs two more officers in order to have a complete roster.

In a meet-and-greet with the House Federal and Foreign Affairs Committee, ICE representative Patrick McCallion told committee members last Friday that it would be a "logistical nightmare" if the

small team of ICE members in the CNMI were to be further reduced.

According to McCallion, who spoke with members of the committee but not with *Saipan Tribune*, ICE currently has four officers including himself, in the CNMI roster that are looking into cases pertaining to immigration and overstaying illegal aliens in the CNMI.

"When I got here, there was only one deportation officer, and he has

See ICE on Page 4

Guam's governor fooled by Russian comedians via phone call

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—Guam's governor was duped by a pair of Russian comedians who pretended to be officials from Ukraine.

Comedians Vladimir Kuznetsov and Alexei Stolyarov posted a YouTube video on Tuesday with a phone call recording of Gov. Eddie Calvo,

in which the pranksters asked Calvo about the threat of North Korea's missiles.

The foolery started in September

2017 when Guam officials received an email requesting a call with Calvo, the Pacific Daily News reported. The senders claimed to be from the office

of the Ukraine prime minister.

Guam government spokeswoman Jenna Blas said the email included

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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Ford hopes to win back customers with the 2019 Ford Ranger.

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NATION

President Donald Trump insists that he is not racist.

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ASIA

Thailand's junta boss appears to be staying in position, with little stopping him.

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Local

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A Battle of Saipan veteran's son makes his own pilgrimage to the island in search of answers.

Imagine you're the son of a World War II veteran. Imagine also that your father, like many veterans of that generation, never spoke about his battle experience while you were growing up, but you know there's a Purple Heart in a frame somewhere in the house. Imagine also that you, now an adult, regret never sitting your father down before he died to get the answers and insights you were always curious about. "What was it like?" "How did you feel?" "What can you tell me about the invasion, of being wounded, of seeing your comrades killed?" Yes, answers. Something. Anything to understand the man you call "father" a little better. Something to help you know what he saw and experienced as an 18-year-old, far from home, to imagine what he felt fighting for his very life on an island in the Pacific. Yes, imagine.

That father was Jesse B. Hayes Jr. of Morgan City, Louisiana. He was 18 years old when he enlisted to do his duty for flag and country, and was part of the landing force that invaded Saipan's beaches on June 15, 1944, in the bloody Battle of Saipan.

The son, Patrick Hayes, found me online, signed up for my all-day, World War II-pilgrimage tour, and shared his reason for coming to Saipan. I asked a few questions of my own to help make the necessary arrangements for his tour.

"As many of his generation," Patrick revealed, "[my

A Marine's service, a son's quest



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Memorial Park lead ranger Brooke Nevitt, Patrick Hayes, and author/tour guide Walt Goodridge have a picture taken after laying a wreath at the American Memorial Park's court of honor. Inset shows Jesse B. Hayes, Jr. enlistment photograph (1944).

father] spoke infrequently about his battle rigors. From what I know, there were three of them in a foxhole. They were hit by mortar fire. The other two Marines died. He suffered two broken legs, a broken arm, and was shredded with shrapnel that regularly came to the surface of his skin for years until he passed away. He always said, 'I was a grunt doing my job, serving my country. I have always been a Marine and will die a Marine.' No fanfare, just a simple proud Marine who raised three boys to be very successful men."

"What are *your* goals for this pilgrimage?" I asked. "In other words, based on your expectations, what would you like to discover, see, hear, feel, learn, take away with you?"

"Well, the purpose of my trip is simply to honor my father, the Marine," Patrick replied, "and to get some answers."

Patrick's questions had grown in number and intensity over the years: "Was it Yellow Beach or Red Beach on which Jesse landed?" "Was it a day or nighttime mortar attack that hit his foxhole?" "What did Saipan look like at the

time?" Yes. Questions. Questions. Questions. So, on the morning of Jan. 12, 2018, 73 years and seven months after the battle in which his father was wounded, Patrick Hayes and I rendezvoused just before 9am at Aquarius Beach Tower in Chalan Kanoa and set off in search of answers.

To kick off the day's quest and planned surprises, we stopped at American Memorial Park in Garapan. Lead ranger Brooke Nevitt provided a wreath for Patrick to lay at the court of honor and, in a small ceremony, we each said a few

quick words to honor Jesse.

From there, Patrick and I walked on the landing beaches, imagining just what his father saw on that fateful morning. We touched tanks, walked around bunkers, crawled inside cramped air raid shelters, viewed an amazing private collection of Battle of Saipan relics, explored a bomb magazine, and stood 1,551 feet in the sky at Saipan's highest point for a 360-degree view, and saw the imposing terrain the American forces encountered, and what they saw when they finally captured Mount Tapachao after 10 days of fighting. We also explored Saipan's natural beauty, enjoyed good conversation, met friendly people and basked in the island's Guinness World Record-worthy warm weather.

Later in the day, at a stop at Marianas Visitors Authority, Kuen-Hee Han presented Patrick with a gift in honor of his father's service.

When it was all done, we stopped at Subway back in Chalan Kanoa and had our debriefing.

"What's your impression of Saipan?" I asked.

"Well, first of all it's the people. I found the people here very jovial, friendly, welcoming...and when I offered that I was here to see the area because my father served here, I was really impressed with the love that they shared for the activities and responsibilities that these young men faced in those days. I mean they really appreciate what they [the

Marines] did. I was moved by that. It was very impressive."

"Rest assured," I told Patrick, "there's an island out in the middle of the Western Pacific filled with people indigenous folks, Americans, and foreign workers who—perhaps more so than those on the mainland—are intimately aware of the role his service 73 years and six months ago played in the lives of their grandparents, parents, as well as how it affects their own daily lives and that of their children. The honor you seek for Jesse B. Hayes Jr. and the men who shared his foxhole has existed here on this island for many years since that day. As you said, you experienced it yourself."

Patrick took a few books as mementos of his time here, and as the hour of sunset was approaching, we returned to Aquarius and said our goodbyes.

Was it a success? Was Patrick's day of searching Saipan fruitful? The day after the tour, I received the following email: "Hi Walt, thank you for the impressive effort you put forth on my behalf yesterday on the tour. You certainly planned the tour around my obvious desires and fulfilled all of the curiosity and then some that I had when I arrived on the island of Saipan as a son of a critically wounded Marine from the 2nd Marine Division. I leave the island enriched with historical data that can live on for generations in my family. Thanks again!"

Through my website and tours, I encourage visitors to this island to "discover the history and the mystery" of Saipan. The son's quest is far from over, but Patrick Hayes of Zephyrhills, Florida, extends his appreciation to the people of Saipan for helping him fulfill this first leg of a long-overdue journey to do just that! Thank you, Saipan!

Online readers may leave a comment for Patrick and/or his father, Jesse, in the comments section.

Hear what else Patrick had to say about his father, the Battle of Saipan and his visit to the CNMI in our post-tour interview, and see videos of his American Memorial Park visit at <http://www.discoversaipan.com/veterans/jessebhayesjr>

Walt F.J. Goodridge is a part-time tour guide and author of Saipan Now: a photo adventure, and There's Something About Saipan available at Bestseller Books, JKPL Public Library and Islander Mini Mart/Car Rental in San Antonio. Check out another WWII-themed publication: From Bugle Boy to Battleship: a Battle of Saipan and Guam Veteran's Memoir by Lloyd Glick, as told to Walt Goodridge, available on Amazon.

Ferry available for Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

For bikers and others heading to the 14th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Feb. 17-18, 2018, ferry service will be available from Saipan on Feb. 16-19.

The *Super Emerald* ferry schedule is:

- Feb. 16, departing Saipan at 6pm and departing Tinian at 8:30pm;
- Feb. 17, departing Saipan at 9am and departing Tinian at 6:30pm;
- Feb. 18, departing Saipan at 9am and departing Tinian at 5pm; and
- Feb. 19, departing Saipan at 8am and departing Tinian at 12pm

Passengers will depart from the Commonwealth Ports Authority dock in Lower Base and must check in one hour before departure.

Ferry round trip cost is \$20 for ages 3-11, \$35 for ages 12

and older, and free for children ages 0-2.

For one way, the cost is \$10 for ages 3-11, \$18 for ages 12 and older, and free for children ages 0-2.

Advance ticket purchase is required and will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Passengers are allowed up to 70 lbs of cargo, including bicycles. A \$10 fee will be charged for additional cargo.

Ticket purchases may be made at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office on Tinian and Saipan. Cash payments only will be accepted.

The festival highlights Tinian's famously potent *donni sali* pepper. The event is also co-organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office and the 16th Tinian Municipal Council and sponsored by MVA

members. Activities will include the road/off road 65K Pika Bike Race on Feb. 17 at 6am, cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances.

Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab), join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball), cook your best *kadun pika* (spicy stew), cha-cha to the championship, arm wrestle or join the *donni sali* eating competition itself. Festival times will be from 2pm to 11pm on both days.

"As one of the MVA's annual signature event, the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival just keeps growing in popularity each year," said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "It's a perfect President's Day week-

end getaway with family or friends, and we look forward to sharing Tinian's charm and hospitality with more visitors this year."

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam.

Air service to Tinian is provided by Star Marianas.

Available hotels on island include Tinian Ocean View Hotel, Fleming's Hotel, Lorilyn's Hotel, Tinian Street Motel and Green Lion House Hotel, and some hotels offer airport shuttle as well.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1 (670) 433-9365, email MVA Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja at vbtorja@mymarianas.com, or visit the Marianas Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. (MVA)

Manglona wants to exclude his siblings' expert witness

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) wants to exclude his siblings' expert witness—a handwriting expert—in connection with their court battle over a piece of land on Upper Capital Hill, saying a court deadline to do so has passed.

In his motion to exclude experts, Paul Manglona, through counsel Mark Scoggins, said his siblings—Priscilla M. Torres and Thomas A. Manglona—and the estate of their late mother, Bernadita A. Manglona, failed to provide the necessary disclosures as required by a Superior Court order on time.

Scoggins said that Associate Judge Pro Tempore David A. Wiseman's pretrial order last Nov. 22 set Jan. 2, 2018, as the deadline to notify the court of any intention to call in an expert.

Scoggins said the lawyer for the Bernadita Manglona estate's administrators Torres and Thomas Manglona has, on many occasions, spoken about hiring a handwriting expert to challenge the signature on the 32-year-old deed from Bernadita Manglona to Paul Manglona.

"There has, however, been no disclosure of any kind as required by order of this court," said Scoggins, adding that there has been no request to extend the deadline.

The court, the lawyer said, should therefore exclude the defendants' experts, if any.

Sen. Manglona is suing Torres, Thomas Manglona, and their mother's estate over the disputed 4,181-square-meter property.

The senator asked the court to declare him the fee simple owner of the property by virtue of a deed of gift on July 11, 1985, and that neither the defendants have any rights to do it.

In their answer to the lawsuit, Torres and Thomas Manglona asserted that their mother's signature had been forged.

In the senator's motion, Scoggins said the reason for requiring expert reports is "the elimination of unfair surprise to the opposing party and the conservation of resources."

Scoggins said the trial is set for a little more than one month and, if there is an intention to offer expert opinion, the deadline has come and gone.

The lawyer said nothing at all has been heard regarding anything to do with any expert.

Scoggins said given this, and in accordance with all of the authority set out by Paul Manglona, the court should exclude expert testimony from the trial.

The trial in this case is set for February 2018.

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Rotary to host fundraising gala

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

To move forward with the second phase of the Kagman community park, the Rotary Club

of Saipan plans to raise funds through an anniversary gala.

During the Rotary Club meeting last week, Rotary Club president Thomas Thornburgh said it has been decided

that the club's upcoming anniversary celebration would be a public gala.

"At the last board meeting we had, which was back in December, we agreed...to

open up [the 50th anniversary celebration] to the public," he said.

Thornburgh said they are looking at \$100 per plate and the funds raised would go to

completing the second phase of the Kagman community park that the Rotary Club started in 2017.

"The Kagman phase II fundraiser is what we will isolate as our target for that fundraising activity," said Thornburgh.

The club's inspiration will be the Micronesia Island Na-

ture Alliance's Green Gala that was held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan last September. "We're going to try and make it kind of like the Green Gala," he said.

According to Thornburgh, the Rotary Club board members will further discuss specific details for the event.

Grants eyed for Multi-Purpose renovation, Tinian car

Through the Office of Grants Management, the Office of the Governor and the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan have submitted their pre-application packages to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Facilities Grant Program for the improvement of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center

in Susupe and to expand youth services on Tinian by acquiring a vehicle for the Tinian Youth Center.

The grant program provides funding assistance to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. The grant submissions undergo a pre-application screening process, a full application process, and then

a rigorous evaluation process with a financial and analytical review. The total length for this grant cycle is about four to six months before an award notification.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres emphasized the need to revamp the current facilities and accommodations provided by the Pedro P. Tenorio

Multi-Purpose Center to better serve the growing needs of the Commonwealth.

"The...Multi-Purpose Center has long played host to various community and government activities for the CNMI. From promotional ceremonies to public forums, it is critical that we make a concerted effort to improv-

ing its many features so that the public could continue to enjoy it," Torres said.

That includes acquiring new air conditioning units, flat-screen television sets, chairs and tables, and a public address system for public use by community groups, organizations, and government functions.

"Our community deserves a well-equipped Multi-Purpose Center that can provide better events for our residents. With a growing economy and increased opportunities to host family and communal events, it is an opportune time to push this initiative forward this year," said Shirley Camacho-Ogumoro, special assistant for Administration.

On Tinian, Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas noted that the acquisition of the vehicle will "enhance programs and services offered by the Tinian Youth Center."

These programs and services are designed to empower, strengthen and promote self-sufficiency among local resi-

dents, particularly the youth. The ultimate benefits from these services are improved outcomes related to social and professional development within the community it serves, San Nicolas added.

OGM administrator Epi-phanio E. Cabrera Jr. underscored his excitement for the new year.

"We have a new USDA regional state director out of Hawaii, Ms. Gigi Jones, and we hope to share the many projects we have planned out for the CNMI under the Communities Facilities program. We look forward to pushing these submissions forward and to work closely again with Mr. Joseph Diego from Guam and the regional office so that they are awarded favorably," he said.

OGM will be submitting grants in the coming weeks for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, the Municipality of Rota, and Division of Agriculture-Quarantine. (*Office of the Governor*)

NEW POSITIONS

Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro administers the oath of office for Sonia A. Camacho last Jan. 8, 2018, as director of Courts for the CNMI Judiciary.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SUPREME COURT



On Jan. 8, 2018, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro administered the oath of office for Jason T. Tarkong as chief marshal of the CNMI Judiciary before Supreme Court justices, Superior Court judges, court managers, deputy marshals, and other law enforcement officers.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MAN

From Page 1

The teams resumed the search yesterday at 7am and called it off at 5pm.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde told *Saipan Tribune* last night that the search will resume today, Tuesday, at 7am.

Gersonde said six DFEMS search-and-rescue unit members did a cliffline search, while three others joined the Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety Unit's boat in the water search.

A helicopter from the U.S. Coast Guard in Guam also helped in the search yesterday.

The body of the Korean man's wife was found Saturday at around 1:32pm near

the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort clubhouse cliffline. She was taken to the hospital, but was pronounced dead at 2:40pm that same day.

Police received the call about the drowning on Saturday at 12:14pm. A witness who reported the incident said the couple failed to resurface.

A command post for the search operations has been set up at Laolao Bay.

In 2015, just a day after the people in the CNMI celebrated New Year's Day, a 6-year-old girl reportedly drowned while a 16-year-old student also died when he jumped into the water in an attempt to rescue the girl and her sister after they and three others encountered rough waters and waves inside a cave at Forbidden Island.

Four students drowned in the same cave in March 2017.

Law 113-235 in 2014.

Last November, USCIS set the CW-1 numerical cap at 9,998 for fiscal year 2018, a huge reduction compared to the previous fiscal year cap, which was 12,998.

Upon learning the news, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres went to Washington, D.C. to request for a reprieve and to negotiate an extension. Sablan requested Murkowski that Torres be included in the working group but the latter has reportedly yet to invite Torres.

economic disruption in the Marianas as well as the loss of U.S. jobs.

Sablan suggested a CW-1 cap of 12,997 for fiscal year 2018 and 12,996 for fiscal year 2019, following previous fiscal years' CW-1 slot reductions.

The CW-1 program, legally known as the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Program, was originally set to expire last 2014. Sablan was able to secure an extension for the program through U.S. Public

in the Marianas economy with enough foreign workers to fill in the gap," he said.

Without sharing any details about the extension, Sablan emphasized that the working group is close to getting the consensus needed to get the CW-1 program extension into law.

Last week, Sablan sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen requesting to set once again the CW-1 caps at the 13,000 level in order to avoid eco-

ICE

From Page 1

been here since 2009," McCallion told the committee. "Now we have three deportation officers and myself."

According to McCallion, his division is still short by two officers. "This position is deemed as a hard-to-fill position, so the process of hiring people out here takes a little longer as opposed to somebody in the [U.S. mainland],"

he said, adding that his team is looking into cases of overstaying aliens in the CNMI.

While manpower remains an issue for ICE in the CNMI, McCallion told the committee that the main focus would be to secure additional holding cells for overstaying aliens' removal from the CNMI.

According to McCallion, all that remains to acquire more holding cells is funding.

The House committee is led by Rep. Gregorio M. Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan).

GUAM

From Page 1

verifiable information, which led officials to proceed with the phone call.

One of the men posed as Ukraine Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman and spoke with Calvo about Ukraine's military cooperation with the U.S.

"It's an honor, it's the first time I've had an opportunity to speak from a representative from Ukraine, but thank you so much prime minister for calling," Calvo said during the call.

The pranksters told Calvo the missiles they sold to North Korea were defective, and assured Calvo none of the missiles would be able to reach

Guam. They asked Calvo about classified information on whether President Donald Trump planned to carry a preventive strike at North Korea and warned Calvo about concerns of Russia deploying fleets to Guam.

Blas said Calvo caught wind of something not being right partway through the interview, but that he completed the call in a professional manner.

Afterward, Homeland Security Advisor George Charfauros told Guam authorities to vet all information from the initial email and the phone call, Blas said.

Chief of Staff Mark Calvo also informed a National Security Advisory Council member of the call.

The administration decided not to take further action.

KILILI

From Page 1

Besides extending the program past the 2019 deadline, Sablan is also working on a draft bill that proposes a more permanent solution to the CNMI's need for workers.

"I have been working since last year with a bipartisan group from the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate on draft legislation. The goal is to get more of our own people jobs

'CW crisis could impact Tinian's development'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

SAN JOSE, Tinian—The island has accomplished the first necessary steps needed to further develop Tinian, but island leaders fear that progress would be hampered by the current immigrant worker crisis.

Last Friday, Tinian offi-

cially opened its new international terminal and even welcomed a charter flight from Hong Kong.

According to Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, the next step is the development of hotel rooms for prospective visitors.

San Nicolas said that Friday's ribbon-cutting for the new international terminal is

only the beginning for Tinian and they are expecting further developments.

Kimberlyn King-Hinds, the Tinian member on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board, said the creation of hotel rooms is crucial for the international terminal to be successful.

However, the development of more hotel rooms is up in the air due to the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa program crisis that the CNMI is currently facing.

"Of course it's all about timing at this point because,

as much as CPA would like to heavily invest...we have got to balance that with opening up hotels here," she said. "That all kind of depends... because the issue with the CW situation is bringing a lot of uncertainty."

Hinds said even if the island welcomes investors who are passionate about investing on Tinian, there would always be questions about where the workforce is going to come from.

"If you're an investor and you're looking to invest in a community like Tinian where

infrastructure is very limited, you're concerned as to where those worker are going to come from," she said.

Even though the newly established terminal is a stepping stone for possible investments and island developments, she acknowledged that Tinian just does not have enough workforce.

"You can open up a new terminal but will they come, how can they come if there are no hotels? That is the challenge. Opening up hotels is very difficult, as you know. ... You don't have the workers here, you

have the [Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino] but there are a lot of renovations that needs to be done and you need workers to do that and we just don't have the capacity here," she added.

Despite the crisis, King-Hinds said the mayor's office will continue with efforts to find ways to attract and bring in investments into Tinian and, at least, with the terminal, another obstacle for development is knocked off the list.

"It's a lot of work and there is still a lot of work to be done on Tinian but this is the foundation for Tinian to basically keep on in its effort to attract more investors..." she said.

Torres welcomes 25 new US citizens

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
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REPORTER

A total of 25 persons became new U.S. citizens last week in a naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court in Garapan and were welcomed into the American family by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres himself.

After first thanking District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, Torres told the new Americans that being a "part of America means being a part of something greater than yourself."

"It is a place where we can contribute for the benefit of each other and create new opportunities for the people around you. This is why today is not the end of your journey. It's only the beginning," said Torres in his speech.

While recognizing that several applicants originated from other countries such as the Philippines, China, Korea, and more, Torres said that each and every applicant had their own story, which is now a part of an even bigger story.

"...What unites us all together is our commitment to

the United States of America and the people that call this great nation home," he said.

Torres also connected the naturalization ceremony to Dr. Martin Luther King's dream. "For those who don't know, Dr. King was an American who devoted his life to advancing equality and opportunity for all. He called us to address the challenges within our community together."

Of the 26 naturalization applications, only one was absent from the naturalization ceremony.

The new citizens are Arcelia and Danilo Alcantara, Antonio and Conchita Alegre, Gerald C. Anciete, Maria Belibei, Marlon Borbon, Birui H. Cabrera, Meiqing J. Cabrera, Merci Canzado, Young Soon Choi, Maria Victoria G. Dano, Yanping W. Deleon Guerrero, Kristine Ann N. Encarnacion, Leonora I. Fernando, Florencia Gacutan, Framzel J. Granada, Evelyn G. Guerrero, Arturo H. Larinay, Soledad B. Lopez, Geoffrey G. Melchor, Jovita S. Raymundo, Ana E. Reyes, Xueping Y. Reyes, Remedios S. Sta. Ana, and Melba Vilaga.



The Office of the Mayor, Municipality of Rota, will hold a public information meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 06:00 p.m. at the Rota Roundhouse in Songsong Village and on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sinapalo Youth Center, Sinapalo Village. The purpose of the meetings will be to review the Municipality of Rota's proposed USDA Rural Business Development Grant application.

The grant will be used to conduct a feasibility study to determine the viability of a Giant Clam Aquaculture Facility on the island. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting and comment on the proposed project.

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Tinian Terminal Ribbon-Cutting



Dancers from the island of Tinian perform a number last Friday at the Tinian International Airport to welcome the first international charter flight from Hong Kong

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



CNMI dignitaries wait for the start of the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the terminal at the Tinian International Airport last Friday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas, second from right, greets the visitors aboard the charter jet from Hong Kong last Friday at the Tinian International Airport.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



A Tinian resident greets Tinian Entertainment Corp. owner Tim Chen, left, with a smile and presents him with a traditional lei.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



CNMI dignitaries pose for a photo while they wait for the arrival of the charter jet from Hong Kong last Friday at the Tinian International Airport.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Investors aboard the charter jet from Hong Kong are greeted by the people of Tinian last Friday at the Tinian International Airport.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas gives brief remarks during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the Tinian terminal of the Tinian International Airport last Friday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



CNMI dignitaries and guests cut the ribbon to officially open the new terminal at the Tinian International Airport last Friday.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



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2016 Tacoma Access Cab
SR, 4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, White, STK#U17-130L
WAS \$25,999*
NOW \$24,999*



2014 Tacoma 2WD, DC
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#U17-139T
NOW \$26,899*



2015 Tacoma Double Cab
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-132T
NOW \$26,999*



2017 Tacoma 2WD, DC, SR5
4-cyl, Auto, Gray, STK#R17-029F
NOW \$27,599*



2013 4Runner SR5
4WD, V-6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-134T
NOW \$27,699*



2014 Tacoma DC
4x4, V6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-111T
WAS \$30,599*
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4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L
WAS \$31,399*
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2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#R17-109R
WAS \$30,229*
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2015 Highlander LE Sport
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Pearl White, STK#U17-135P
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2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Silver, STK#U17-108R
WAS \$30,599*
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2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Blue, STK#U17-116R
WAS \$30,599*
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2016 Highlander LE Sport
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Gray, STK#R17-025F
WAS \$30,799*
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4-cyl, Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-125R
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United is named top carrier in 'green' rankings

GUAM—United Airlines ranked number one among global carriers in *Newsweek's* 2017 Global 500 Green Rankings, one of the most recognized environmental performance assessments of the world's largest publicly traded companies.

United placed 59th among 500 U.S. brands and 100th among 500 global brands, further strengthening the company's position as a leading sustainable airline.

Newsweek's recognition of United's green initiatives follows Air Transport World

magazine naming United the Eco-Airline of the Year last year for the company's environmental leadership, innovation and action within the industry.

Air Transport World has twice named United the Eco-Airline of the Year since the

carrier launched its industry-leading Eco-Skies program.

"We are proud to be recognized as a global leader for our environmental stewardship," said Angela Foster-Rice, United's managing director of environmental affairs and sustainability. "We will continue

to innovate, in the air and on the ground, as we strive to make United the most environmentally sustainable airline in the world."

United's Eco-Skies program represents the company's commitment to the environment and the actions taken every day to support a sustainable future. Several of United's most-significant environmental achievements include:

■ Becoming the first U.S. airline to begin using commercial-scale volumes of sustainable aviation biofuel for regularly scheduled flights, marking a significant milestone in the industry by moving beyond demonstrations and test programs to the use of low-carbon biofuels for ongoing operations.

■ Investing more than \$30 million in U.S.-based alternative aviation fuels developer Fulcrum BioEnergy, Inc., which represented the single largest investment by any airline globally in alternative fuels.

■ Becoming the first U.S. airline to repurpose items from the carrier's international premium cabin amenity kits and partnering with Clean the World to donate hygiene products to those in critical need.

■ Teaming up with Audubon International to protect raptors—including hawks, ospreys and owls—in and around New York-area airports and resettle the birds of prey at suitable golf course habitats where the species are

more likely to thrive.

■ Achieving "Green Business" certifications for United Club lounges from the cities of Los Angeles, Denver and San Diego.

■ Partnering with the Federal Aviation Administration to demonstrate the potential benefits of new satellite-based technology for instrument landings that enable aircraft to use fuel more efficiently on arrival and land at normal rates in challenging weather.

■ Continuing to replace its eligible ground equipment and service vehicles with cleaner, electrically powered alternatives, with nearly 40 percent of the fleet converted to date.

■ Becoming the first airline to fly with Boeing's Split Scimitar winglets, which reduce fuel consumption by up to 2 percent; United is the largest Split Scimitar winglet customer today.

■ Sourcing illy coffee's internationally certified supply chain of farmers who earn above-market prices in exchange for meeting quality and sustainability standards for the finest coffee.

■ Offering Eco-Skies CarbonChoice, the airline industry's only integrated carbon offset program for corporate business travel and cargo shipments.

For more information on United's Eco-Skies commitment to the environment, visit www.united.com/ecoskies. (PR)

Koror fish farm gets juvenile rabbitfish



Photo shows CRE staff and local aquaculture farmers. Other photo shows rabbitfish fingerlings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

More than 2,000 hatchery-produced rabbitfish (*Siganus lineatus*) juveniles from the Palau Community College Multi-species Hatchery in Ngermetengel were delivered to a newly established Aquapro Fish Farm in Koror State on Jan. 11, 2018.

This farm is operated by a partnership of three local fishermen: Tmerukl Shmull, Jay

Okada, and Godwin Ito—all residents of Koror State.

The release of these fingerlings is an offshoot of the recently concluded Palau Aquaculture Workshop that was held at PCC last September 2017, which created a partnership between the Bureau of Marine Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and PCC to promote community

livelihood and food security through aquaculture development in the country.

Of the species that were identified for commercial production, the rabbitfish ranks second in priority.

Currently, the country's Aquaculture Working Group aims to establish at least 20 pilot farms all over Palau in 2018.



Research on the refinement of the seed production technique for the two species of rabbitfish—"klesebuul" (*S. lineatus*) and "meas" (*S. fuscescens*)—has been undertaken and demonstrated at PCC hatchery with the funding support coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture through the College of Micronesia Land Grant Program and Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture.

Aside from providing free rabbitfish juveniles to the fish farmers, PCC-CRE also provides technical assistance by giving advice on proper husbandry, feeding management, and monitoring of environmental parameters in their farms. (PR)

CAMPUS BRIEFS

MHS PTA meeting set

The Parent Teacher Association of Marianas High School invites all parents, teachers, and guardians to the PTA meeting tomorrow, Jan. 17, 6pm, at the MHS cafeteria. (PR)

Kagman schools to have PTSA meeting

The Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, at 5:30pm in the Kagman Elementary School cafeteria. We are encouraging all parents, and guardians to attend this meeting. Please call the school at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

670 Sonics to hold pizza fundraiser

The 670 Sonics Basketball Association will be hosting the 670 Sonics Basketball Club's Pizza Night fundraiser today,

Jan. 16, 2018, from 11am to 10pm. All regular menu items can be purchased at Pizza Hut, Saipan Branch, for this specific date and time only. Before placing an order, inform Pizza Hut that this is a Pizza Night order for 670 Sonics. You may ask and will be given the sales claim check form available at Pizza Hut's counter, which needs to be filled out by you, the purchaser. Detach the sales claim check form and give to the Pizza Hut cashier or delivery driver at time of payment. 25 percent of total sales will be donated to the 670 Sonics' off-island invitational basketball challenge this March 2018. If you or your company would like to donate to our basketball club, contact 1 (670) 789-7907 or email 670sonics@gmail.com. (PR)

Kagman High School open house

Kagman High School will be hosting an open House tomorrow,

Jan. 17, 2018, from 5pm to 7pm. We invite parents to check-in at 5pm in the KHS cafe. They will be escorted to their choice of presentations given by KHS teachers and staff about the programs and initiatives happening at the school. Parents will earn raffle tickets after each presentation they attend. Afterwards, we will be showcasing student talent in the cafe for a closing presentation and raffle with light refreshments. Parents who attend will earn their children class points towards the class of the year competition! They will also be entered into the end-of-the-year raffle for participating in KHS outreach events. Call 664-3780 for inquiries. (PR)

Volunteers sought for homeless survey

The CNMI Homeless Coalition will be conducting its 2nd Annual "Point In Time Count" on Saturday, Jan. 27,

2018, from 5am to 5pm. The purpose of the PIT Count is to continue data collection to allow the CNMI Homeless Coalition to identify program and service need areas to assist those who are at risk of being homeless and those who are literally homeless.

The coalition is seeking community volunteers to assist in the administration of the PIT Count surveys. The orientation for the PIT Count is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2018, from 1pm to 4:30pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. Volunteers will need to register no later than Jan. 17, 2018.

For more information, or to register to be a volunteer, contact:

■ Jacob Muna at 234-7689/483-9447 or through email at jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp

■ Vivian Sablan at 664-2550/664-2592 or through email at vsablan@dys.gov.mp

■ Jennifer Tanaka at 664-

2554 or through email at jtana-ka@dys.gov.mp

■ Gennie Bliss at 664-2550 or through email at gbliss@dys.gov.mp (PR)

UOG to unveil ultra-high-speed network on Jan. 18

On Thursday, Jan. 18, 2018, University of Guam president Robert Underwood, University of Hawaii System president David Lassner, and Network Startup Resource Center director Steven Huter will hold an online teleconference to commemorate the completion of the Guam Open Research & Education eXchange, or GOREX.

The University of Hawaii, working with the University of Guam and GTA, completed the installation of the GOREX network last Jan. 8, 2018.

GOREX is an ultra-high-speed 100-gigabit-per-second network that connects Guam to Hawaii and California

via the new SEA-U.S. fiber-optic submarine cable. When GOREX lit up and went live, Guam finally connected to the global Research and Education Network fabric and became capable of supporting high-speed exchanges of very large scientific datasets between Guam and other research institutions. (PR)

CNMI/Japanese Descent Association reaches out

The CNMI/Japanese Descent Association is reaching out to all local families who are lineal descendants of Japan. The mission of the association is to organize and reinvigorate Japanese cultural heritage in the Northern Mariana Islands. For all members who are interested in joining the association, contact Dave Sablan Sr. at dmsab@aol.com or Norman Tenorio at norten@pacificains.com / cell: 287-0751. (PR)

Compact impact relief bill re-introduced in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), together with Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-HI) and Tulsi Gabbard (D-HI) and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), have re-introduced the Compact Impact Relief Act to provide additional federal resources to Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI, American Samoa, and other jurisdictions affected by migrants from the Freely Associated States.

Each year, Guam and other affected jurisdictions submit estimates for the cost of providing public service to migrants under the Compacts of Free Association between the United States and three FAS: the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau.

According to the most recent estimates, Guam remains the primary destination for Compact migrants, followed closely by Hawaii.

In 2017, Guam estimated Compact impact at \$142.6 million for just fiscal year 2016 but received just \$16.2 million from the U.S. Department of the Interior, which administers federal Compact aid.

To address this disparity, Bordallo’s bill makes numerous practical policy changes to alleviate costs borne by local jurisdictions, which are required by federal law to provide public services to Compact migrants and other lawful immigrants. The Compact Impact Relief Act introduced yesterday expands upon the Guam delegate’s bill from prior Congresses.

“Addressing Compact impact has always been and remains a top priority for me in Congress. This bill seeks to bring much-needed federal dollars and resources to compensate Guam for the costs of serving Compact migrants,” said Bordallo. “I continue to believe that the Compacts are an important national security and economic agreement between the U.S. and the Freely Associated States, but the federal government must do more to help the affected jurisdictions’ governments with the costs they bear to provide services to these migrants. This bill provides a holistic approach to the challenges of the Compacts. If they are to be renewed after they expire in fiscal year 2023, Congress must first increase exponentially Compact impact funding for Guam and the affected jurisdictions. I hope that Governor Calvo will join me in demanding that the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans increase mandatory Compact impact funding for GovGuam, as a requirement for any renewal of the Compacts after 2023.”

Hanabusa said, “The benefits to the United States, from the Compacts and the presence of citizens from the Freely Associated States are without question. Hawaii is home to more than 17,000 FAS citizens and state and county governments spend about \$100 million a year to provide healthcare, education and other government services. However, the federal government reimburses about \$.16 for every dollar. Mahalo, [Delegate] Bordallo, for introducing this measure and thank you to our co-sponsors, [Rep.] Gabbard and [Delegate] Sablan for supporting this common sense solution to help our local governments pay for services to support these communities.”

Gabbard said, “Without adequate federal funding, Hawaii’s state and local governments have faced tremendous strain and challenge in caring for the more than 17,000 COFA migrants in Hawaii, who were promised care and services by the federal government. This legislation will relieve much of this burden by increasing federal funding and resources for Hawai’i to deliver needed healthcare, education, social, public safety, and other services to COFA migrants who call

Hawaii home.”

Sablan said, “The U.S. Pacific insular areas should not be saddled with an unfair share of our nation’s foreign policy costs. For that reason, I join with my colleagues from Guam and Hawaii to introduce the Compact Impact Relief Act. As the only Micronesian in Congress, I also want to be sure that, when our friends and neighbors from the Freely Associated States decide to make their home in one of the U.S. islands, they know they are welcome and not a financial burden. The Compact Impact Relief Act will help achieve both of these goals. I thank... Bordallo for her leadership.”


Bordallo’s bill includes her National Community Service Improvement Act of 2015, which was originally developed at the request of Speaker Benjamin Cruz of the 34th Guam Legislature.

“I thank Speaker Cruz for his support and was pleased to incorporate into this year’s bill a section making Compact migrants on Guam eligible for federally funded national and community service program like AmeriCorps,” added Bordallo.

“AmeriCorps exists to build stronger communities. Citizens of the Freely Associated States should have the opportunity to share in this vital work just as much as everyone else. I want to thank Congresswoman Bordallo for taking action through this amendment. With her help, I pray Congress realizes that every person willing to work for it deserves a job not a jail cell,” said Cruz.

Bordallo’s bill would also double Guam’s waiver from the requirement to match federal grants. This change will help Guam seek even more federal grant money, especially for local projects where territorial matching funds are simply unavailable. Each year, Bordallo supports local entities like the University of Guam, as they apply for competitive federal grants.


“...Bordallo’s bill will help UOG and all Guam organizations secure additional federal grant money for local projects and initiatives, without the current burdensome matching requirement. UOG appreciates the [delegate’s] help in securing these federal grants, her support for our students, and her work on this important legislation for Guam,” said Dr. Robert A. Underwood, president of the University of Guam. *(PR)*



UNITED STATES

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 2nd Quarter General Membership Meeting on January 25, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency – Giovanni’s Main Room

AGENDA

I.

Call to Order

II.

Roll Call

III.

Review & Adoption of Agenda of January 25, 2018

IV.

Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2017

V.

Action Items

a.

Review and Approve the Autism Toolkit

b.

Ratify and Approve the Amendment of FY 2017 DD Basic Grant Budget

c.

Approve an Amendment to the CNMI Disability Resource to include Information on CNMI Public and Private Healthcare Providers and Other Professionals

VI.

Reports

a.

Chairperson

b.

State Plan Committee Chairperson

c.

Fiscal Committee Chairperson

d.

Executive Director

VII.

Old Business

a.

President’s Initiative – Partnerships for Innovation, Inclusion and Independence

VIII.

New Business

a.

CRSP Volunteer Respite Training

b.

Developmental Disabilities & Employment Awareness Month

IX.

Miscellaneous

X.

Next Meeting - March 1, 2018

XI.


Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson


This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW-18-IFB-005

TOPOGRAPHIC AND AS-BUILT SURVEY OF VARIOUS PROJECTS IN PRECINCT III, FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Topographic and As-Built Survey of Various Projects in Precinct III, for Roads and Drainage Improvement**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **January 16, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 2, 2018, 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 8, 2018 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW-18-IFB-005"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time February 13, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 13, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 13, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **February 23, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 28, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on February 13, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **\$70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a)

A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b)

A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1)

Cash

2)

US Gov't Securities

3)

Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4)

Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and

5)

Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Ninety (90) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **Three Hundred (US\$300.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA

Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN

Director of Procurement & Supply

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

38 minutes of fear in Hawaii



YONHAP NEWS/NEWS.COM/ZUMA PRESS/TNS

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un presides over a military parade held in Pyongyang to mark the 105th birthday of late founder Kim Il-sung on April 15, 2017.

In 1938, Orson Welles panicked the nation with a false alarm about a Martian invasion in the radio broadcast “The War of the Worlds.” That was far-fetched, of course. But what happened on Saturday, sadly, was not so hard to imagine...or believe.

Authorities sent an emergency alert to cellphones in Hawaii: “BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.”

The possibility that a missile or missiles would land hung in the air for 38 minutes. That’s 38 long minutes while people sought shelter and reached out to relatives. We imagine some wondered if they’d ever hear the voices of their loved ones again.

Thankfully, it was a false alarm.

In calmer times, such an alert might have been shrugged off by many people as a relic of the Cold War. Someone pushed the wrong button. No biggie.

Many Americans may believe this nation is 50 years past such dire alerts. When a cellphone blares with an alert, people brace for bad weather. A tornado. A thunderstorm. Not a nuclear attack.

But a new nuclear threat looms. This time, from a North

See 38 on Next Page



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres with Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services officer Shelia Kelty, are joined in this photograph by the 25 new citizens of the United States.

Welcome!

Editor's note: The following is the text of the remarks made by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres at the 2018 MLK Day naturalization ceremony at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Good morning, everybody! *Hafa adai* and *tirow*! I want to start by first thanking Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, and the staff here at the U.S. District Court for the NMI for having me here today.

To my fellow citizens, the newest members of our American family, “congratulations!” I am genuinely excited for all of you and your families. You all come from different walks of life, from many countries like the Philippines, China, and South Korea.

In this room, all of us, including myself, have our own personal stories—our journey to where we are today. But what unites us all together is our commitment to the United States of America and the people that call this great nation home. When you raise your right hand and take a very important oath, you answer the call to serve your community as a citizen with great responsibilities.

As of today, your story will be connected with my story and with the larger story of what America is all about. Your journey was long, and at times it was frustrating and stressful. Immigrating from the country you came from was difficult, but you all know the importance of why you left in the first place. Here in the Marianas, our ancestors navigated in dark nights, guided by the sea of stars, in search of a better life for themselves on these beautiful islands. In America, we learned about the stories of the Pilgrims, who escaped religious persecution, the Africans who were brought into slavery, the Irish and Italians who came through Ellis Island to escape poverty, and the Chinese who came to California to build the railroads of the West.

But when they all arrived at their new places, life wasn’t easy. Our Chamorro and Carolinian ancestors had to endure typhoons and learn to fish and plant food on the islands. We all also remember Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, how everyone was affected regardless of your status or your background, and how we all had to help each other together. Everyone who arrived in America over the years had to learn to adapt to a different environment that was at times scary and unpredictable.

However, today is a reminder of why you all left the country you came from and came here to the Marianas—to America.

In the same way you all have a story, you all have a dream.

A dream of starting up a business or going to a new and exciting job opportunity.

A dream of being able to write your own destiny, practice your own religion, and love whomever you choose.

A dream that one day, you will be able to provide a better life for yourselves, for your children and your grandchildren, and for your families.

Your dreams are deeply rooted in the American Dream, just like the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who we honor and remember this weekend.

For those that don’t know, Dr. King was an American who devoted his life to advancing equality and opportunity for all.

By **RALPH DLG. TORRES**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ralph DLG Torres is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



He called us to address the challenges within our community together. He dreamed of a nation, where people will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Dr. King once said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

As governor of the Northern Mariana Islands, I ask myself that question all the time. I see the many problems before us as a Commonwealth. With all the problems that exist in our community, I have spent many stressful nights wondering what the solution is... if there is a solution.

But every once in a while there are times where we are given the chance to do things that make people’s lives better—that give them a chance to succeed. It’s why I am working to continue growing our economy so that our students receive a great education, our hospital provides better healthcare, and you and your families can continue to pursue your dreams. It’s why I’m working to get more of our unemployed folks into jobs, so they can also write their stories of success.

I also think about our CW issue that we face today and how it will not only hurt our businesses, but it will negatively affect the many people who immigrated here and now call these islands home and who have dreams of their own. I work for them too.

We have a lot of problems that we need to work on. The issues are complex and the solutions are never as easy as we would hope. But we have the duty to solve them together as one community under the American flag.

Being a part of America means being a part of something greater than yourself. It is a place where we can contribute for the benefit of each other and create new opportunities for the people around you.

This is why today is not the end of your journey. It’s only the beginning.

Our Commonwealth and our country need you to be active citizens by following our laws, voting in our elections for who you believe provides you with the best opportunity to pursue your dreams, letting your government know what you need, and helping your fellow citizen when they need your help. Just like Dr. King’s dream, this is what being American is all about.

Don’t ever forget where you came from, but always remember that you are now an American, and it is a blessing that should not be taken for granted.

Thank you and God bless you all. Welcome to our American family.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

Brightfart and Bannon: A Convulsive Canon

"Canon" used here means a body of principles, standards, or norms.

Convulsive canon on a correction course
Brightfart and Bannon announce a divorce
Brightfart yesterday totally alt-right
Bannon's heyday a boss so bright
Bannon chapter and verse radical actor
Money bags Mercer right wing redactor
Bannon on the outs now is finished
Brightfart pouts somewhat diminished
Bannon no suture seeds not worth sowing
Brightfart to the future gradually growing
Bannon departure a sad sack distraction
Brightfart smarter with cerebral action
Brightfart tomorrow keeps on trying
Bannon's sorrow tomorrow he's crying.

Mirror, Mirror On The Wall

A narcissist's nightmare after a visit from Abraham Lincoln's ghost.

Mirror, mirror on the 'dumpy' White House wall
with a new silver backing and frame of gold
I believe you know who's smartest of them all
now that Brightfart Bannon's out in the cold
mirror mirror to my brain pan please be kind
pay no attention to family insults Bannon said
my former strategic planner has "lost his mind"
I'm still in charge, the Number One potato head
mirror mirror "believe me" I'm not a male witch
or a deep state dark rogue boss hearing confessions
about that 'lying media' I'd like to fire every SOB
and fire more of my cabinet starting with Sessions
mirror mirror some say you are indeed two sided
from that other side one can see our nation divided

Off Tweet in White House

Pundits say DJT is "a clear and present danger"
Some suggest serious trouble and getting stranger:
O - obfuscating every single controversial issue
F - fearful of the slightest amount of criticism
F - foolish fodder for Fox TV in his genetic tissue
T - tweeting twit filled with DOJ and FBI criticism
W - waffling on basic issues of civil liberty
E - elephantine egotistic boss of the GOP
E - enigmatic emerging electoral entropy
T - Trump's major interest is always himself
I - inside intel tells all from the WH 'dump'
N - never far away from a large screen TV
W - wary of forthcoming tax cut slump
H - happy to be heading to another golf tee

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From Page 10

Korean dictator trading threats and insults with President Donald Trump. What's real? What's political theater? What's empty bluster for domestic audiences? We don't know.

We do know that Hawaiians aren't the only ones in range of a potential North Korea strike. Washington, D.C., is also likely in range, or soon will be. New York, too. And of course, Chicago.

In December, for the first time in more than three decades, a warning siren sounded across Hawaii as officials tested a system that could alert residents that a nuclear missile launched by North Korea was headed their way. Hawaiians now watch TV ads to prepare them for the worst, warning them to "get inside, stay inside" if an attack seems imminent. Shades of the 1950s-'60s "duck-and-cover" drills in American classrooms.

Saturday's false alarm may be quickly forgotten. But a terrible thought lingers: The next warning could be real.

The Republican Rift is a New Year Gift

"As far as leadership is concerned, our D.C. boss is really at a loss."

—Republican Sen. Collins of Maine

As old man winter slowly shuffles off this mortal coil it appears a narcissist nitwit will rule for another year it makes nonpartisan blood of sensible citizens boil brings to mind more Trumpty Dumpty tweets to fear Year Two of 45's reign lies just a few weeks ahead reliable poll denial plus a new year cell phone ring sixteen times in a row "No Collusion" DJT will sing about his praise for dictators Sen. John McCain says, "It's disturbing, very disturbing." While Republican Sen. Corker says Trump is, "dividing the country and alienating other people instead of inspiring" Republican Sen. Flake calls out Pres. Trump's "reckless and outrageous and undignified speech" Thanks for lessons these US Republican senators teach.

Chief Tweetologist: The Next Three Years

New Year's day has passed by and we are now proceeding as Wash D.C. is filled with many different investigations our beloved democracy is with virtual unreality bleeding as a praise loving narcissistic ignoramus leads our nation who knows where we will be led in the next three years with further executive orders bruising the constitution and an alt right base praising Cheeto Tweeto with cheers Tweetologist Twit's 'sad' strategic simpleton solutions the Chief Confusing Ignoramus acting in TV addled action continues to make more absolutely inept appointments sycophants who will submit to and adhere to his satisfaction

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Is there a difference?

Is there a difference between political status desires of Guam residents and political self-determination aspirations of the Chamorro people of Guam? The Guam print media have not seriously addressed this question.

The Guam media have lumped together political status plebiscite matters, which are more mechanical and process oriented with bias toward the United States and Chamorro self-determination into one frame, and have failed to adequately explain the similarities and differences to the public.

This is a major shortcoming and there are opportunities to improve and expand this public conversation.

The issue of Chamorro self-determination is premised on the need to right historical wrongs or at least give voice to the past injustices experienced by islanders who were residents of Guam in 1950 and successive generations, when the Organic Act of Guam was unilaterally passed by Congress.

This issue has never been fully resolved to the satisfaction of the Chamorro people on a systemic basis.

Chamorro self-determination is, at its fundamental level, the desire for islanders to produce for themselves governmental structures that best fit the unique characteristics and circumstances of the largest Pacific Island in Micronesia. True political self-determination will codify and institutionalize the harmonization between our ancient Chamorro culture, our historical social system traditions and ancient linguistic and seafaring traditions that pre-date anything American, but may also include the best of American political traditions that have not been realized on the island.

Fundamentally, Chamorro self-determination is about human rights justice and attainment, nothing more and nothing less, for an ancient Pacific island people who have been living on a relatively remote and isolated landmass of 210 square miles located in the vast expanse of the western Pacific Ocean area.

A broader discussion would help the community better understand the complexities of this matter and here is a short list of

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

as he greases himself and billionaires with tax plan ointments however the next three years is not all doom and gloom there will be plenty more testifying in Mueller's D.C. room

45's Predilection for the Middle Finger

Tweeting ignorance daily, insulting with every word the 45th President of the US flips our country the bird he sticks up his figurative middle finger to try us with his *predilection*, *prepossession*, *prejudice*, *bias* while Trump constantly tells the middle class he cares his clearest **predilection** is for big business billionaires and right along with his sycophant VP Michael Pence 45 has a **prepossession** against basic common sense about reality and truth in news coverage he cares less his pronounced **prejudice** against the media is mindless **bias** towards buddy Steve Bannon on his Top Ten list Bannon, big boss of Brightfart, is a Stalinist syncretist as 45 tweets and flips his figurative middle finger bird General M. Flynn is flipping many the damaging word

questions intended to grow the conversation:

1. Are the known options available to address past human rights violations really focused on human rights considerations and if not, why not?

2. Is the current Guam media discussion on Chamorro self-determination and a political status plebiscite truthful to all the complexities of how islanders have experienced American governmental control over the past 11 decades?

3. How do islanders properly account for non-islanders who have moved to Guam and raised families and contributed to the overall welfare of this American colony, knowing that full political human rights attainment has been suppressed?

4. How do non-islanders think about human rights violations of the Chamorro people from past American governmental actions and inactions?

5. How have people coming from Asia and the United States to Guam assisted or prejudiced the basic fundamental discussions tied to human rights violations of islanders?

6. Have islanders engaged in constructive ways to address the issue of political self-determination and how complete has the collective conversation been?

7. Have both islanders and Guam residents been partly to blame for the lack of a complete and uncomfortable discussion on what constitutes political self-determination and political status voting matters?

8. How will these topics be discussed in light of the further militarization of Guam, which is fundamentally an undemocratic policy decision series made by the federal regime?

9. What can the U.S. government learn from its past mistakes in Guam and what, if anything, can be done to bring about systemic relief and remedy to islanders to fully enable basic human rights through political self-determination to be attained?

The Pacific Island of Guam is 210 square miles, but the location of where this 210 square mile island is located is considered priceless to the American national security communities for a host of reasons.






Will real democracy for islanders ever be attained under American control and governance?

Rick Perez

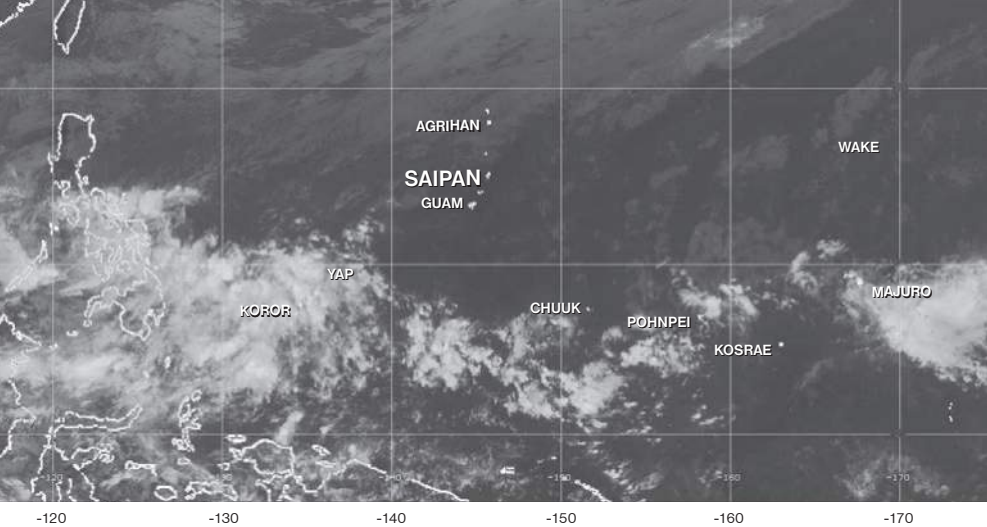
via email

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼78° | ▲88° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:44 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

North swell was a bit bigger than forecast, so a high surf advisory was issued yesterday. Have retained it for this issuance as we still have a 5 to 6 foot north swell. The swell will gradually turn toward the east and the higher criteria of east facing reefs will be how this high surf advisory meets its end. Weather within the forecast zones has cleared up due to the approach of a shear line, currently near Alamagan in the CNMI. The rising motion near this shear line is creating some compensating sinking motion here in the coastal and island forecast zones. This shear line is expected not to get much farther south, so overall little change is in the offing for the Marianas zones and coastal waters. Only real change is that a small craft advisory is no longer expected tonight or Tuesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

| MICRONESIA ▲ ▼ °F | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 78° |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 84° / 76° |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 83° / 77° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | 85° / 81° |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 83° / 79° |

| AROUND THE GLOBE ▲ ▼ °F | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| Auckland | Showers | 73° / 68° |
| Beijing | Mostly Sunny | 43° / 16° |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | 73° / 63° |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 72° |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | 45° / 37° |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | 71° / 53° |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 88° / 77° |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 84° / 57° |
| Miami | Mostly Cloudy | 73° / 66° |
| New York | Mixed | 38° / 32° |
| Osaka | Rain | 54° / 46° |
| Paris | Showers | 48° / 39° |
| Busan | Showers | 55° / 46° |
| Rome | Partly Cloudy | 57° / 54° |
| Salem | Mostly Cloudy | 54° / 22° |
| San Francisco | Showers | 56° / 48° |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 46° / 30° |
| Tokyo | Rain | 54° / 45° |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 43° / 27° |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1:27 AM | LOW TIDE | -0.25 |
| 8:27 AM | HIGH TIDE | 1.79 |
| 1:49 PM | LOW TIDE | 1.16 |
| 6:37 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.84 |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:46 AM | 6:06 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:46 AM | 6:07 PM |
| Thursday | 6:46 AM | 6:07 PM |
| Friday | 6:47 AM | 6:08 PM |
| Saturday | 6:47 AM | 6:08 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | 5:49 am | 5:26 pm | - |
| Wednesday | 6:37 am | 6:15 pm | - |
| Thursday | 7:22 am | 7:05 pm | - |
| Friday | 8:06 am | 7:54 pm | - |
| Saturday | 8:49 am | 8:44 pm | - |

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

| DEPARTURES | | | |
|-------------------|--------|---------|---------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | |
| UA6394 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA6392 | 8:40am | 9:30am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota |
| UA6390 | 2:20pm | 3:10pm | 2, 3, 6 |
| UA6398 | 6:05pm | 6:55pm | Daily |
| UA6396 | 9:50pm | 10:40pm | Daily |

| SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP) | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| UA6391 | 1:30pm | 2:05pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

| ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| UA6391 | 2:35pm | 3:10pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

| SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) | | | |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| DL297 | 4:20pm | 7:15pm | Daily |

| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|------|
| 7C3451 | 3:10am | 6:10am | 1, 7 |
| 7C3451 | 4:00am | 7:05am | 4, 5 |

| SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|------------------|
| TW308 | 2:00am | 6:05am | Daily |
| OZ626 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ626 | 2:50am | 6:40am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| LJ652 | 3:40am | 7:30am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45am | 8:30am | Daily |
| 7C3401 | 4:00pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

| SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|------------|
| 3U8648 | 5:40am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

| SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG) | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|---|
| JD396 | 7:30am | 12:00pm | 1 |
| JD396 | 4:50pm | 10:00pm | 4 |

| SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|------|
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |

| SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| MU764 | 1:30am | 6:35am | 3, 5, 7 |

| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | |
|---------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|
| OZ626/701 | 2:10am | 10:55am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/701 | 2:50am | 10:55am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA6394/191 | 4:15am | 9:00am | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 8:10am | 7 via GUM |
| UA6394/PR111 | 4:15am | 9:20am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:40pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA6398/183 | 6:05pm | 9:50pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA6398/193 | 6:05pm | 11:50pm | 2, 5 via GUM-ROR |

| SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) | | | |
|------------------------|--------|---------|--------------------------|
| HX077 | 1:50am | 5:15am | 1, 4 |
| OZ626/721 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ626/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| U043 | 5:45am | 8:40am | 1, 3, 5, 7 |
| UA6398/159 | 6:05pm | 11:00pm | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

| ARRIVALS | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|------------------|
| GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA6393 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| UA6395 | 7:15am | 8:05am | Daily |
| UA6391 | 12:10pm | 1:00pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 via Rota |
| UA6397 | 4:45pm | 5:35pm | Daily |
| UA6399 | 8:30pm | 9:20pm | Daily |

| GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| UA6390 | 12:10pm | 12:45pm | 2, 3, 6 |

| ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| UA6390 | 1:15pm | 1:50pm | 2, 3, 6 |

| NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN | | | |
|---------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| DL298 | 10:30am | 3:05pm | Daily |

| BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
|--------------------|--------|----------|---------|
| 7C3452 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4 |
| 7C3452 | 9:05pm | 2:10am+1 | 3, 6, 7 |

| SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
|--------------------|---------|----------|------------------|
| 7C3402 | 9:30am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| OZ625 | 7:40pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 |
| TW307 | 7:45pm | 1:00am+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 8:20pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |
| LJ651 | 9:10pm | 2:40am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10pm | 3:40am+1 | Daily |

| SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN | | | |
|-----------------------|---------|----------|------------|
| 3U8647 | 10:20pm | 4:30am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

| HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------|---|
| JD395 | 8:25am | 3:30pm | 4 |
| JD395 | 9:55pm | 5:00am+1 | 7 |

| GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN | | | |
|------------------------|--------|----------|------|
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |

| BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN | | | |
|----------------------|--------|-----------|---------|
| MU763 | 4:25pm | 12:30am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |

| MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
|---------------------|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| UA182/6395 | 12:40am | 8:05am | 3, 6 via GUM |
| UA190/6397 | 9:55am | 5:35pm | 2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ702/625 | 12:25pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/625 | 12:25pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/UA6395 | 10:05pm | 8:05am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| UA192/6395 | 10:30pm | 8:05am+1 | 2, 5 via ROR-GUM |
| UA184/6395 | 10:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |

| HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|--------------------------|
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:00am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/625 | 1:15pm | 1:40am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| HX076 | 5:15pm | 12:15am+1 | 3, 7 |
| U042 | 6:50pm | 1:45am+1 | 7 |
| U042 | 9:30pm | 4:25am+1 | 2, 4, 6 |
| UA116/6395 | 11:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 1301 | 7:30AM | 8:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:30AM | 12:00PM | Daily |
| 1303 | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | Daily |

| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 3101 | 8:15AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 1:45PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 3103 | 4:45PM | 5:15PM | Daily |

| ROTA TO GUAM | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | 12:15PM | 12:45PM | Daily |

| GUAM TO ROTA | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 4301 | 1:00PM | 1:30PM | Daily |

| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 1201 | 7:00AM | 7:15AM | Daily |
| 1202 | 8:00AM | 8:15AM | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00AM | 9:15AM | Daily |

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 1204 | 10:00AM | 10:15AM | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00AM | 11:15AM | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00PM | 12:15PM | Daily |
| 1207 | 1:00PM | 1:15PM | Daily |
| 1208 | 2:00PM | 2:15PM | Daily |
| 1209 | 3:00PM | 3:15PM | Daily |
| 1210 | 4:00PM | 4:15PM | Daily |
| 1211 | 5:00PM | 5:15PM | Daily |
| 1212 | 6:00PM | 6:15PM | Daily |

| TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 2102 | 7:30AM | 7:45AM | Daily |
| 2103 | 8:30AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| 2104 | 9:30AM | 9:45AM | Daily |
| 2105 | 10:30AM | 10:45AM | Daily |
| 2106 | 11:30AM | 11:45AM | Daily |
| 2107 | 12:30PM | 12:45PM | Daily |
| 2108 | 1:30PM | 1:45PM | Daily |
| 2109 | 2:30PM | 2:45PM | Daily |
| 2110 | 3:30PM | 3:45PM | Daily |
| 2111 | 4:30PM | 4:45PM | Daily |
| 2112 | 5:30PM | 5:45PM | Daily |
| 2113 | 6:30PM | 6:45PM | Daily |

Business

After 8-year hiatus, Ford Ranger returns to US in 2019

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)— Ford made the wrong bet on small pickup trucks in 2011. It hopes to put things right—and win back customers—with the 2019 Ford Ranger.

Employee is entitled to privacy about reason for being away from work

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: I would like to find another job, but my work schedule makes it difficult to arrange interviews. Using vacation time might seem like the logical solution, but that's not possible here.

Due to the nature of our business, management requires vacation requests to be made 30 days in advance.

If I ask for time off on short notice, my boss will expect me to give him a reason. I'm not very good at lying, and I don't feel right about faking a medical appointment. I have missed out on several opportunities because I couldn't figure out how to go to interviews. How do other people deal with this?

A: Because most employers understand this dilemma, they will often try to accommodate. Therefore, your first strategy should be to explain your vacation restrictions and request an interview before or after work. If that isn't feasible, then you will have to give your boss a plausible explanation for missing a few hours.

He is likely to be more receptive if your absence occurs during a slow period, so try to schedule interviews when you are least likely to be needed. As for the reason, you don't need to invent a medical malady which might raise additional questions. Instead, simply treat this as you would any other confidential matter.

Send your boss an email explaining that you will be coming in late or taking a long lunch due to a personal appointment or family situation. Since employees often have private issues which they prefer not to discuss, most managers won't interrogate people about such requests. But if you are pressed for details, simply give a vague reply, like "Oh, it's just something I have to straighten out."

If this tactic feels slightly shady, remember that everyone deserves a zone of privacy. Since admitting to a job search would clearly be self-defeating, overly intrusive bosses are practically inviting people to lie.

Q: As a primary care physician, I have many patients whose insurance deductibles have increased. To avoid the cost of an office visit, they will often call to request a prescription or a referral for a medical test. They apparently expect me to diagnose their problem over the phone.

Ordering these services without doing a history and exam would be irresponsible, but people don't seem to understand this. While I don't want to be rude to my patients, these calls are taking up a lot of my time. How should I handle them?

A: The solution to this problem actually seems fairly simple. Instead of personally responding to these requests, designate a staff member to take those calls. Provide that person with a standard policy statement which politely explains the situation.

For example: "Although Dr. Smith would certainly like to help, our physicians are not allowed to order medical tests without first seeing the patient to be sure the procedure is appropriate. This is simply good medical practice. So would you like to schedule an office visit?"

If someone becomes upset or argumentative, the staff member can take a message and have you return the call. However, most of your patients will probably understand and comply.

Ford is unveiling the North American version of the Ranger on Sunday ahead of the Detroit auto show. It goes on sale next spring, eight years after Ford pulled it off the market in the U.S. and Canada.

Back then, the cheap but dependable Ranger was the best-selling truck of its size. But gas prices were high, demand was dwindling and the struggling company wanted to devote more resources to hybrids and to improving fuel economy in its full-size F-150 pickup. The company shuttered the 86-year-old Minnesota factory where the Ranger was made.

"It was politically correct to cast aside pickups at the time," says Dave Sullivan, manager of product analysis for the market research firm AutoPacific. A rival small pickup, the Dodge Dakota, was pulled off the market the same year.

The Ford factory is still closed, but everything else has changed. Gas prices are low. Ford is profitable and has the

cash to invest in new vehicles. And while the market for midsize trucks did get smaller after peaking in the mid-1990s, it never went away. Automakers sold 448,000 midsize pickups in the U.S. in 2016; that's forecast to grow to 470,000 in 2019, according to the consulting company IHS Markit. The midsize Chevrolet Colorado and Toyota Tacoma both notched sales increases last year even though overall U.S. sales were down.

Ford has continued selling the Ranger abroad; it's the best-selling pickup in Europe and New Zealand. But in the U.S., it thought buyers who needed to haul things occasionally would gravitate toward SUVs.

The company gradually realized there was still U.S. demand for a smaller, easy-to-manuever pickup. So much demand, in fact, that GM shifted van production out of its Wentzville, Missouri, plant so it could make more midsize trucks.

Affordability was also an issue, says Todd Eckert, Ford's truck marketing manager. As buyers add more features to full-size trucks, the average price of an F-Series pickup has crept past \$45,000. By contrast, the Colorado starts at \$20,200. Ford isn't yet releasing pricing, but it will be competitive with other midsize trucks.

Ford will market the Ranger as a vehicle for urban adventurers. It has a terrain management system that automatically adjusts the transmission and vehicle controls for driving in snow, mud or sand. A new trail control feature maintains a set speed even on slow, bumpy trails.

The North American Ranger shares its underpinnings with the Ranger that's on sale globally. But to meet U.S. safety standards and customer expectations, the frame was reinforced with high-strength steel. Steel bumpers were added in the front and rear to better resemble the

F-150, which isn't a big seller outside North America.

Under the hood is the same 2.3-liter EcoBoost four-cylinder engine that powers the Ford Mustang sports car. Ford says that will give the truck the power of a V6 engine with the fuel economy of a four-cylinder. It's mated to a 10-speed transmission. Unlike the Tacoma, Ford won't offer a manual transmission. Ford isn't yet releasing horsepower, fuel economy, payload or towing capacity.

The Ranger will be offered in two-door or four-door configurations with a choice of a 5-foot or 6-foot bed. That will suit Dan MacLeod, 28, an insurance broker from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, who wants room for car seats and a bed that will fit his hunting and fishing gear. MacLeod used to drive an F-150 and now he drives a GMC Yukon SUV, but he prefers Ford trucks and will buy a Ranger if he likes what he sees.



Ford Motor Co. Executive Chairman Bill Ford, left, stands with President and CEO Jim Hackett, next to the 2019 Ford Ranger pickup at the North American International Auto Show, Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018, in Detroit.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Recall of French baby milk products extended to 83 countries

PARIS (AP)—The head of French dairy company Lactalis says that a recall of baby milk products because of a salmonella scare has been extended to 83 countries from around 30. In an interview with French weekly Le Journal du Dimanche, the president of Lactalis, Emmanuel Besnier, said that more than 12 million boxes

of infant milk products are now concerned. They represent all lots from the Lactalis factory in Craon, northwest France, where the salmonella bacteria was discovered in December. The move comes after Besnier met Friday with France's economy minister—and a bungled recall operation whose responsibility remains unclear. The paper said 35 babies were diagnosed with salmonella in France, one in Spain and a possible case in Greece.

Airbus in talks with German prosecutors to end jet probe

BERLIN (AP)—Airbus says it is in talks with German prosecutors to end their investigation into alleged irregularities in the sale of combat aircraft to Austria. The aviation and defense company says that "once concluded, Airbus will disclose the result." The company described as "pure speculation" a report late Saturday by German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung that

Airbus might avoid going to trial by paying a fine of 70-80 million euros (\$85-97 million). Munich prosecutors are investigating whether bribes were paid to secure the sale of 15 used Eurofighter Typhoon planes to Austria in 2003. Separately, Airbus said it has been notified of an arbitration ruling in a case involving subsidiary Matra Defense, ordering it to pay 104 million euros for breach of contract in the 1992 sale of missiles to Taiwan.

Nation

Trump defends self after comments: 'I'm not a racist'

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)—President Donald Trump, on the defensive in the wake of recent disparaging comments about Haiti and African nations that have revived questions about whether the leader of the world's melting pot is a racist, declared Sunday that he is not one.

"No, No. I'm not a racist," Trump told reporters who asked for his response to those who think he is a racist. "I am the least racist person you have ever interviewed. That I can tell you."

Trump also denied making the statements attributed to him, but avoided delving into the specifics of what he did or did not say.

"Did you see what various senators in the room said about my comments?" he asked, referring to lawmakers who were meeting with him in the Oval Office on Thursday when Trump is said to have made the comments. "They weren't made."

Trump stands accused of using "shithole" to describe African countries during an immigration meeting with a bipartisan group of six senators. The president, in the meeting, also questioned the need to admit more Haitians to the U.S., according to people who were briefed on the conversation but were not authorized to describe the meeting publicly.

Trump said in the meeting that he would prefer im-



President Donald Trump pauses as he speaks during an event to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Friday, Jan. 12, 2018, in Washington. With Trump are Vice President Mike Pence, and Isaac Newton Farris Jr., nephew of Martin Luther King Jr., right.

migrants from countries like Norway instead.

The White House has not denied that Trump said "shithole" though Trump has already pushed back on some depictions of the meeting.

A confidant of Trump's told The Associated Press that the president spent

Thursday evening calling friends and outside advisers to judge their reaction to his remarks. Trump wasn't apologetic and denied he was racist, instead blaming the media for distorting his meaning, said the confidant, who wasn't authorized to disclose a private conversa-

tion and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the only Democrat at Thursday's meeting, said Trump had indeed said what he was reported to have said. Durbin said the remarks were "vile, hate-filled and clearly racial in their content." He said Trump

used the most vulgar term "more than once."

Trump commented as Durbin was presenting details of a compromise immigration plan that included providing \$1.6 billion for a first installment of the president's long-sought border wall.

Trump took particular is-

sue with the idea that people who'd fled to the U.S. after disasters hit their homes in places such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Haiti would be allowed to stay as part of the deal, according to the people, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly describe the discussion.

When it came to talk of extending protections for Haitians, Durbin said Trump replied, "We don't need more Haitians."

"He said, 'Put me down for wanting more Europeans to come to this country. Why don't we get more people from Norway?'" Durbin said.

Republican Sens. David Perdue of Georgia and Tom Cotton of Arkansas, who also attended the meeting, initially said in a statement Friday that they "do not recall the president saying these comments specifically." On Sunday, they backtracked and challenged other senators' descriptions of the remarks.

Perdue described as a "gross misrepresentation" reports that Trump used the vulgarity. He said Durbin and Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina were mistaken in indicating that was the case. Graham also attended the meeting.

"I am telling you that he did not use that word. And I'm telling you it's a gross misrepresentation," Perdue said on ABC's "This Week."

King's words still inspire nearly 50 years after his death

ATLANTA (AP)—Though his voice was silenced nearly 50 years ago, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s message of nonviolence still resonates and inspires.

Decades ago, the famed civil rights leader—also regarded as one of America's greatest orators—recalled driving one night from Atlanta to Chattanooga, Tennessee, with his brother A.D. at the wheel. Most cars in the opposite lane failed to dim their lights, and his brother angrily vowed to keep his bright lights on in retaliation.

"And I looked at him right quick and said: 'Oh no, don't do that. There'd be too much light on this highway, and it will end up in mutual destruction for all. Somebody got to have some sense on this highway,'" King told the congregation at the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama during a 1957 sermon.

"Somebody must have

sense enough to dim the lights, and that is the trouble, isn't it?" King told the congregation. "That as all of the civilizations of the world move up the highway of history, so many civilizations, having looked at other civilizations that refused to dim the lights, and they decided to refuse to dim theirs."

More than a half-century later, in a world full of contentious politics, one of King's memorable quotes remains relevant. It's from his book "Strength to Love," first published in 1963:

"Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction."

The AP asked a half-dozen

people in the cities where he was born and where he died to consider his words and talk about what they mean for today's world.

Some were interviewed in Atlanta, home to King's Ebenezer Baptist Church congregation and his office where Xernona Clayton organized protest marches and fundraisers. Others reflected on the quote in Memphis, in front of the Lorraine Motel balcony where King was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

"When he says 'hate cannot drive out hate, only light can do that,' it recognizes that to be bitter about your circumstance is one thing. To retaliate based on your circumstance is quite another," said Terri Lee Freeman, president of the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, at the site of the old Lorraine Motel. "So, Dr. King reminds us that it is usually through love—actionable love—that we are able to make change."

California mudslides death toll rises to 20

MONTECITO, Calif. (AP)—At the end of a heartbreaking week that saw deadly mudslides kill at least 20, residents of Montecito gathered to grieve, pay tribute to victims and commit to rebuilding their cherished community on the Southern California coast.

Mourners lit prayer candles and left flowers as a makeshift memorial for the victims after shedding tears, hugs and prayers during the vigil outside the Santa Barbara County courthouse.

"I don't know about you, but I'm scared of Mother Nature right now," Santa Barbara Mayor Cathy Murillo told the attendees at the vigil.

Bethany Harris, who lives in Santa Barbara, brought her two young sons to the vigil because she wanted to make sure they understood the impact the devastating storm has had on the community, she said.

"We all know someone who has been affected by

this," she said. "We will heal together."

Before a moment of silence, Santa Barbara County Supervisor Das Williams read out the names of each of the 20 victims.

"Tonight, we need to mourn," he said. "Our community is going through something it has never gone through."

Those at the vigil included the family of 30-year-old Pinit Sutthithepa, whose body was discovered Saturday afternoon. His 2-year-old daughter, Lydia, remained missing. His 6-year-old son, Peerawat, nicknamed Pasta, and his 79-year-old father-in-law, Richard Loring Taylor, also were killed in the mudslides. Family members said they were too distraught to speak.

"This family is one of several that lost multiple family members," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. "And we know that the suffering of those who knew

and loved all of the victims is immense."

The list of those still missing in the mudslides has shrunk to four.

In the disaster area, firefighters went door to door on Sunday to check the structural stability of the houses damaged by a powerful rainstorm that preceded the mudslides and scoured what's left of toppled homes and mangled cars as they searched for the missing.

Search and rescue operations ended Sunday and authorities transitioned to a search and recovery phase, Brown said. The move allows officials to release resources that are no longer needed and allow search operations to slow to a safer pace, he said.

The storm sent flash floods cascading through mountain slopes that were burned bare by a huge wildfire in December. Workers used backhoes, jackhammers and chain saws to clear away masses of mud, boulders and toppled trees.

Asia

Thai junta boss eyes staying on with little stopping him

BANGKOK (AP)—When Prayuth Chan-Ocha seized control of Thailand in a military coup, he vigorously denounced politicians as responsible for the country's ills and positioned himself and his fellow generals as the cure.

Four years on, with many of the country's problems still festering and the public growing impatient for long-delayed elections, the junta leader made a declaration that for many seemed to confirm suspicions that he planned to stay in power long past any polls.

"I am no longer a soldier. Understand? I'm just a politician who used to be a soldier," the 63-year-old former-army-chief-turned-prime-minister told reporters at the turn of the year, adding, "But I still have a soldier's traits."

The world's only nation still under formal military rule, Thailand is under increasing pressure both at home and abroad to return to civilian governance. The message now appears clear: In one form or another, the gruff general wants to be that civilian.

Should Prayuth decide to stay on, there's little stopping him. For one, he still holds absolute power under rules he implemented when he staged the 2014 coup and he could simply put off elections yet again.

But even if he decides to



In this image from video, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, left, directs the scene as a life-sized cardboard cut-out figure of himself is carried into view by an aide, in Bangkok, Thailand, Monday Jan. 8, 2018.

for democracy.

"Our democratic future is going down the drain. Democratic space is closed, and public space is also closing. I don't know if we can find any hope in the years ahead," Naruemon Thabchumpon, a political scientist at Chiang Mai University, told an international conference. "But we must at least understand the path along which we are going. We can't just murmur and complain in our backyards."

The military views things very differently, arguing that it intervened to save the country from a possible civil war as deep cleavages in society erupted into violence, and from corrupt politicians who manipulated a flawed political process.

"The military stepping in was the last resort," Lt. Gen. Weerachon Sukhontapitapak, the deputy regime spokesman, said in an interview. "It may seem contradictory to say we staged a coup to restore democracy but it is indeed the case in Thailand. Military intervention this time, we hope, will be the last time."

follow his latest timeline and hold polls later this year, he and his junta have carefully crafted a strategy to ensure the military commands politics, society and even the economy for decades to come.

While Prayuth has not flatly stated whether he will seek to lead the next government, several days after declaring himself a politician he remarked: "I can be whatever you want me to be. I can be it all."

Thailand has suffered more than a decade of political unrest and upheaval, including two coups and numerous rounds of sometimes deadly

street protests, as its conservative establishment struggled with the grassroots political success of billionaire businessman Thaksin Shinawatra and later his sister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The Shinawatras fundamentally changed Thai politics with populist policies aimed at wooing the country's poor rural majority, but their time in power was also marred by allegations of corruption. Both Thaksin and Yingluck watched their governments topple in coups and both now live in exile to avoid court convictions they say were po-

litically motivated.

To prevent a return to what it says was a "lost decade" of national peril, the junta drafted a constitution that neutered political parties in favor of non-elected bodies and even allows for an appointed prime minister. The junta itself gets to appoint many who would do the appointing, including the entire upper house of Parliament, which would also have some seats directly reserved for the military.

Powerful Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, another former army chief and key junta member, said last

week that he thought Prayuth should lead the next government but seemed to hint it should be by running in the election. "It must be the voice of the people," he said.

Even if a traditional politician or party were to come to power, they would be legally bound to follow a junta-devised national strategy that encompasses the next 20 years and that critics say will put a military stamp across a broad spectrum of future public policy.

For some in Thailand—where the junta has banned protests and political gatherings—all this spells doomsday

Lava flowing from PH volcano, thousands evacuated

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP)—More than 9,000 people have evacuated the area around the Philippines' most active volcano as lava flowed down its crater Monday in a gentle eruption that scientists warned could turn explosive.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology increased the alert level for Mount Mayon late Sunday to three on a scale of five, indicating an increased tendency toward a hazardous eruption.

Lava flowed at least half a kilometer (less than half a mile) down a gully from the crater and on Monday morning, ash clouds appeared mid-slope, said Renato Solidum, head of the volcano institute.

Molten rocks and lava at Mayon's crater lit the night sky Sunday in an reddish-orange glow despite a shroud of thick clouds that covered the volcano, leaving spectators awed but sending thousands of residents into evacuation shelters.

Albay province emergency response official Cedric Daep said at least 9,000 people have been moved from high-risk ar-

reas in an ongoing evacuation. People in the danger area have put up huge white crosses in their neighborhoods, hoping to protect their lives and homes.

"It's risky if people will be left behind," Solidum said of villagers who stay to watch over their homes within a permanent danger zone around the volcano.

But if the institute raises the alert level further, indicating deadlier danger, villagers would have to leave areas near Mayon. The volcano lies in coconut-growing Albay province about 340 kilometers (210 miles) southeast of Manila.

Three steam-explosions since Saturday have spewed ash into nearby villages and may have breached solidified lava at the crater and caused lava to start flowing, Solidum said.

With its near-perfect cone, Mayon is popular with climbers and tourists but has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently.

On May 7, 2013, an ash eruption killed five climbers, including three Germans, who had ventured near the

summit despite warnings of possible danger.

Experts fear a major eruption could trigger pyroclastic flows—superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds, incinerating or vaporizing everything in their path. More extensive explosions of ash could drift toward nearby towns and cities, including Legazpi city, the provincial capital, about 9 miles (15 kilometers) away.

The bulletin sent Sunday night said a hazardous eruption was possible within weeks or even days. It said the glow in the crater signified the growth of a new lava dome and that the evacuation zone be enforced due to the dangers of falling rocks, landslides or a collapse of the dome.

Mayon's first recorded eruption was in 1616. The most destructive in 1814 killed 1,200 people and buried the town of Cagsawa in volcanic mud. The belfry of a Cagsawa church juts out of the ground in a reminder of Mayon's deadly fury that has become a tourist attraction.

2 Koreas discuss Northern art troupe's visit during Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Officials from the two Koreas met Monday to work out details about North Korea's plan to send an art troupe to the South during next month's Winter Olympics, as the rivals tried to follow up on the North's recent agreement to cooperate in the Games in a conciliatory gesture following months of nuclear tensions.

In a development that still shows their bitter animosities, the North issued a veiled threat on Sunday indicating it could cancel its plans to send an Olympic delegation to protest what it called South Korea's "sordid acts of chilling" the prospect for inter-Korean reconciliation. The warning is relatively milder than the North's typical fiery, bellicose rhetoric and it didn't appear to put the recent signs of warming Korean ties in imminent danger.

"They should know that train and bus carrying our delegation to the Olympics are still in Pyongyang," the North's official Korean Central News Agency said. "The South Korean authorities had

better ponder over what unfavorable results may be entailed by their impolite behavior."

The KCNA criticized South Korean President Moon Jae-in for crediting President Donald Trump for getting the North to sit down with the South. Trump has contended his tough stance helped persuade the North to hold talks. KCNA also accused South Korea of letting the United States deploy aircraft carriers and other strategic assets near the Korean Peninsula on the occasion of the Olympics.

Monday's talks at the border village of Panmunjom will likely focus on the makeup of an art troupe and when and where in South Korea they would perform, according to South Korean officials.

Drawing keen attention is whether the North would send its famous "Moranbong Band," an all-female ensemble hand-picked by the North's leader Kim Jong Un. One of the North Korean delegates to the talks is Hyon Song Wol, the head of the Moranbong Band, according to Seoul's

Unification Ministry.

Since its first stage debut in 2012, the band is hugely popular at home and has been dubbed by outsiders as "North Korea's only girl group" for its Western-style performances featuring women in mini-skirts and high heels dancing and singing odes to Kim.

The band is one of the ways Kim had tried to project an image of youth and modernity since becoming leader in 2011, though expectations he might be different from his dictator father have faded after he executed top officials including his own uncle in an apparent effort to bolster his grip on power.

"It's certain the Moranbong Band would come given Hyon Song Wol was among the North Korean delegates," said analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at South Korea's private Sejong Institute. "But if they come dressed in military uniforms, that could cause strong resistance. If they put praise of Kim Jong Un or a missile launch scene in the background on stage, that could trigger bigger controversy."

World

Palestinian leader rebukes Trump: 'Shame on you'

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—The Palestinian president railed at President Donald Trump in a fiery, two-hour-long speech on Sunday, saying “shame on you” for his treatment of the Palestinians and warning that he would have no problem rejecting what he suggested would be an unacceptable peace plan.

The speech by Mahmoud Abbas ratcheted up what has been more than a month of harsh rhetoric toward Trump since the president's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Relations between Washington and the Palestinians have sunk to a new low, boding poorly for a peace plan the White House has promised to present.

Speaking to the Palestinian Central Council, a decision-making body, Abbas repeated the Palestinians' opposition to Trump's Jerusalem recognition and censured Trump for accusing the Palestinians of refusing to negotiate.

“He (Trump) said in a tweet: ‘We won't give money to the Palestinians because they rejected the negotiations,’” Abbas said. “Shame on you. When did we reject the talks? Where is the negotiation that we rejected?”

Trump infuriated Palestinians and Muslims around the world when he announced late last year that the U.S. would



AP
Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, speaks during a meeting with the Palestinian Central Council, a top decision-making body, at his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018.

recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and move its embassy there, upending decades of U.S. policy and countering an international consensus that the fate of Jerusalem should be decided in negotiations between the sides.

Abbas has said that by siding with the Israelis on a sensitive issue, the announcement had destroyed Trump's credibility as a Mideast peace broker.

“We can say no to anyone if things are related to our fate and our people, and now we have said no to Trump,” he said. “We

told him the deal of the century was the slap of the century. But we will slap back.”

Abbas also said that the Palestinians have rejected a U.S. request to halt payments to roughly 35,000 families of Palestinians killed and wounded in the conflict with Israel, including suicide bombers and other militants. Israel argues that the practice encourages violence.

Hoping to secure what he has called the “ultimate” deal, Trump has for nearly a year dispatched his Mideast team, led by his adviser and son-in-

law Jared Kushner, to the region to try to breathe life into moribund peace talks, which collapsed in 2014.

But the Jerusalem pivot threw a wrench into Trump's peacemaking attempts. Since then, the Palestinians have butted heads with the U.S. at the United Nations, winning a global rebuke against Trump's move. Trump has responded by threatening to cut aid and to reduce U.S. payments to the U.N.'s Palestinian refugee agency. The U.S. is the largest donor to the agency.

Israeli Prime Minister Ben-

jamin Netanyahu has welcomed Trump's tough line toward the Palestinians, while

also pushing forward with more settlement construction on lands sought by the Palestinians.

Palestinian officials say that while they have not received a formal proposal from the U.S., they have heard from Saudi interlocutors that the U.S. is exploring the possibility of offering the Palestinians a statelet in the parts of the West Bank they already control, with Israel controlling the borders, and the Gaza Strip. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss a sensitive diplomatic issue.

WORLD BRIEFS

Earthquake in Peru destroys dozens of homes, kills 1 man

LIMA, Peru (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck off Peru's coast early Sunday, tumbling adobe homes in small, rural towns, killing at least one person and injuring dozens, officials said. The sole fatality was a man crushed by a falling rock, officials said. They said many of those injured were in Caraveli province, a coastal area dependent on fishing and mining that is popular with tourists. Sixty-five people were injured, the national chief of civil defense, Jorge Chavez, said. The earthquake destroyed 171 homes, displacing the same number of families, Peru's National Emergency Operations Center said on its website Sunday night. It added that 736 families had been affected in some way by the tremor. Emergency crews responded by bringing in tents and mattresses to displaced families, officials said. “Everything that is needed is going to be sent,” President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski said. “We are already responding at full speed.”

Official: Cameroon bus crash kills at least 21, injures 38

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP)—A governor in Cameroon says at least 21 people have been killed and at least 38 injured when a bus veered off a road and crashed into a tree in a ravine. West Region

Gov. Awah Fonka said Sunday that the death toll from the accident late Saturday is likely to increase. He said the bus driver and at least four others were uninjured. The Cameroon government said the 70-passenger unregistered vehicle was headed from Dschang to Douala in the West Region. Fonka said it's still too early to determine the cause of the accident. He says the people injured are being treated at a local hospital.

Islamic State group offshoot claims 2017 Niger attack on US

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—An Islamic State group offshoot is claiming it carried out the October attack in Niger that killed four U.S. soldiers and four Nigerien troops and sparked questions about U.S. military involvement in West Africa's vast Sahel region. The Mauritanian Nouakchott News Agency reported Friday that Abu al-Walid al-Sahrawi with the self-professed IS affiliate claimed responsibility for the Oct. 4 ambush about 120 miles (200 kilometers) north of Niger's capital, Niamey. The news agency has carried messages from the affiliate before, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadist websites. The U.S. Africa Command has been investigating the attack, which also wounded two U.S. and eight Nigerien troops. A final report is expected to be released this month.

France vs. fake news offers test case for democratic dilemma

PARIS (AP)—Can a democratic country outlaw fake news?

France is about to find out, after President Emmanuel Macron ordered a law to quash false information disseminated around electoral campaigns.

Criticism is pouring in from media advocates, tech experts—and Kremlin-backed broadcaster RT. They say the law smacks of authoritarianism, would be impossible to enforce and is sure to backfire.

Macron's stance “could be just the beginning of actually censoring freedom of speech. We believe it is a very dangerous situation,” Xenia Fedorova, director of RT's newly launched French-language channel, told The Associated Press.

Yet in a world where a falsehood can reach billions instantaneously and political manipulation is increasingly sophisticated, Macron argues something must be done.

A congressional report by U.S. Democrats released Thursday detailed apparent Russian efforts to undermine politics in 19 European countries since 2016, using cyberattacks, dis-

information, clandestine social media operations, financing of fringe political groups and, in extreme cases, assassination attempts. Macron's own campaign suffered a big hacking attack last year, though the government later said it found no proof of Russian involvement.

Propaganda and disinformation aren't new or unique to Russia. Author and technology historian Edward Tenner argues that fake news is as old as George Washington's cherry tree—an enduring but untrue legend about the first U.S. president.

While democracies usually rely on defamation and libel laws to combat false publications, Macron wants more.

In a New Year's speech to journalists, he said he's ordering a new “legal arsenal” that would oblige news sites to reveal who owns them and where their money comes from. It could cap the money allowed for content seen as aimed at swaying an election and allow emergency legal action to block websites. The French broadcast regulator's power would expand to allow it to

suspend media seen as trying to destabilize a vote—notably those “controlled or influenced by foreign powers.”

That probably means outlets such as RT—whose coverage was seen as favoring far-right candidate Marine Le Pen in last year's French election and which many consider a tool of the Russian government—and Sputnik, another Russian-backed outlet that drew attention for reporting a rumor during the French presidential campaign that Macron was having a gay affair.

He denied it, and beat Le Pen anyway, but never forgot.

RT's Fedorova says they are being unfairly targeted. Speaking from RT's gleaming French studios on the banks of the Seine River, she says she struggled to get permits to open in France, and her journalists are routinely barred from the Elysee Palace after Macron accused RT and Sputnik last year of being “organs” of Russian influence.

RT France's coverage appears broadly similar to other French networks, with a slight-

ly greater emphasis on street violence and migrants. The biggest difference: its extensive coverage of Syria, which stresses the views of the Russian and Syrian governments.

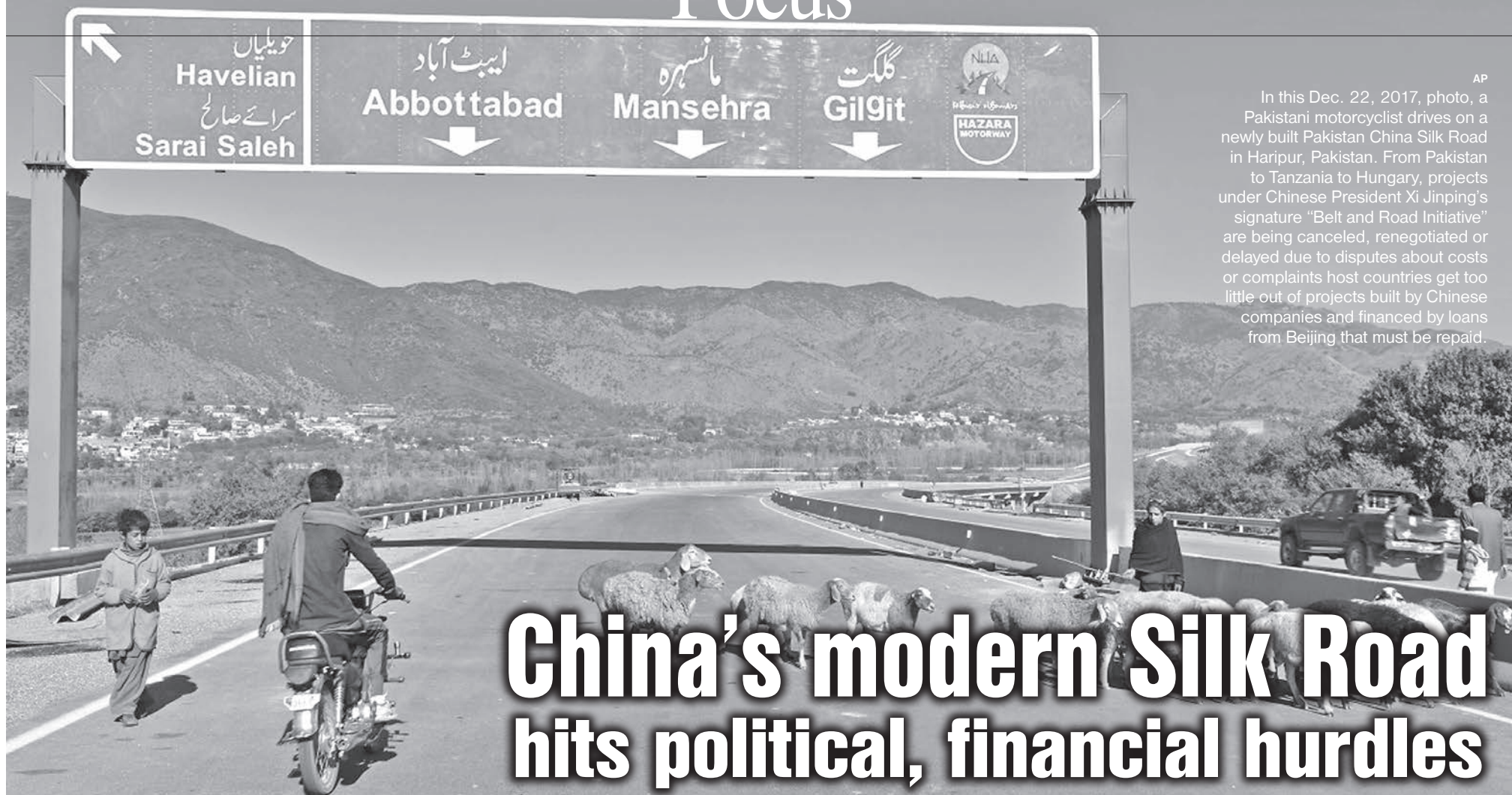
“RT stands for giving the floor, the platform to different opinions, and I personally believe that diversity of voices is absolutely necessary in order to have the big picture,” said Fedorova, who says RT will be watching Macron's plan closely.

Media freedom watchdog Reporters Without Borders is also watching closely. It has decried fake news as undermining journalists who work hard to uncover wrongdoing and verify information, but the group is wary of Macron's order.

“We are not opposed to the principle of a law against fake news. But the point is to be able to write a law without endangering the freedom to reveal things,” the group's chief, Christophe Deloire, told the AP.

“Probably our democracies have to be defended in front of the fake news wave,” he said, but not “with the ways that despotic countries use.”

Focus



AP
In this Dec. 22, 2017, photo, a Pakistani motorcyclist drives on a newly built Pakistan China Silk Road in Haripur, Pakistan. From Pakistan to Tanzania to Hungary, projects under Chinese President Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road Initiative" are being canceled, renegotiated or delayed due to disputes about costs or complaints host countries get too little out of projects built by Chinese companies and financed by loans from Beijing that must be repaid.

China's modern Silk Road hits political, financial hurdles

By JOE McDONALD,
MUNIR AHMED and
SYLIVESTER DOMASA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—China's plan for a modern Silk Road of railways, ports and other facilities linking Asia with Europe hit a \$14 billion pothole in Pakistan.

Pakistan's relations with Beijing are so close that officials call China their "Iron Brother." Despite that, plans for the Diamer-Bhasha Dam were thrown into turmoil in November when the chairman of Pakistan's water authority said Beijing wanted an ownership stake in the hydropower project. He rejected that as against Pakistani interests.

China issued a denial but the official withdrew the dam from among dozens of projects being jointly developed by the two countries.

From Pakistan to Tanzania to Hungary, projects under President Xi Jinping's signature "Belt and Road Initiative" are being canceled, renegotiated or delayed due to disputes about costs or complaints host countries get too little out of projects built by Chinese companies and financed by loans from Beijing that must be repaid.

In some areas, Beijing is suffering a political backlash due to fears of domination by Asia's biggest economy.

"Pakistan is one of the countries that is in China's hip pocket, and for Pakistan to stand up and say, 'I'm not going to do this with you,' shows it's not as 'win-win' as China says it is," said Robert Koepp, an analyst in Hong Kong for the Economist Corporate Net-

work, a research firm.

"Belt and Road," announced by Xi in 2013, is a loosely defined umbrella for Chinese-built or -financed projects across 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Africa and Europe. They range from oil drilling in Siberia to construction of ports in Southeast Asia, railways in Eastern Europe and power plants in the Middle East.

Other governments welcomed the initiative in a region the Asian Development Bank says needs more than \$26 trillion of infrastructure investment by 2030 to keep economies growing. Nations including Japan have given or lent billions of dollars for development, but China's venture is bigger and the only source of money for many projects.

Governments from Washington to Moscow to New Delhi are uneasy Beijing is trying to use its "Belt and Road" to develop a China-centered political structure that will erode their influence.

China's significance to Pakistan as a source of financing increased following U.S. President Donald Trump's Jan. 5 decision to suspend security assistance to Islamabad in a dispute over whether it was doing enough to stop Afghan militants.

"Belt and Road" is a business venture, not aid. A Cabinet official, Ou Xiaoli, told The Associated Press in April that lending will be on commercial terms. Beijing wants to attract non-Chinese investors, though that has happened with only a handful of projects, he said.

Among projects that have been derailed or disrupted:

-Authorities in Nepal can-

celed plans in November for Chinese companies to build a \$2.5 billion dam after they concluded contracts for the Budhi Gandaki Hydro Electric Project violated rules requiring multiple bidders.

-The European Union is looking into whether Hungary violated the trade bloc's rules by awarding contracts to Chinese builders of a high-speed railway to neighboring Serbia without competing bids.

-In Myanmar, plans for a Chinese oil company to build a \$3 billion refinery were canceled in November due to financing difficulties, the newspaper Myanmar Times reported.

There is no official list of projects, but consulting firm BMI Research has compiled a database of \$1.8 trillion of infrastructure investments announced across Asia, Africa and the Middle East that include Chinese money or other involvement.

Many are still in planning stages and some up to three decades in the future, according to Christian Zhang, a BMI analyst.

"It's probably too early to say at this point how much of the overall initiative will actually be implemented," said Zhang.

The U.S. and Japanese governments express interest in building contracts or other potential "Belt and Road" opportunities for their companies. But they also are trying to develop alternative initiatives.

In November, the U.S. government's Overseas Private Investment Corp. signed an agreement with Japanese partners to offer "infrastructure investment alternatives in the Indo-Pacific region," according to a White House statement.

The following month, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan can "cooperate greatly" with China.

The stumbles for one of the world's most ambitious infrastructure ventures could help temper concerns Beijing will increase its strategic influence.

"There is a big possibility that China is going to have a lot of disagreements and misunderstandings," said Kerry Brown, a specialist in Chinese politics at King's College London. "It's hard to think of a big, successful project the 'Belt and Road Initiative' has led to at the moment."

Even Pakistan, one of China's friendliest neighbors, has failed to agree on key projects.

The two governments are developing facilities with a total cost of \$60 billion including power plants and railways to link China's far west with the Chinese-built port of Gwadar on the Indian Ocean.

A visit by a Chinese assistant foreign minister in November produced no agreement on railway projects in the southern city of Karachi valued at \$10 billion and a \$260 million airport for Gwadar.

The same month, the chairman of the Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority announced the Diamer-Bhasha Dam would be withdrawn from joint development. The site is in Gilgit-Baltistan in Pakistan's far north, part of the Kashmir region, which also is claimed by India.

"Chinese conditions for financing the Diamer-Bhasha Dam were not doable and against our interests," the official, Muzammil Hussain, told legislators, according to Pakistani news reports.

The Chinese Cabinet agency overseeing "Belt and Road," the National Development and Reform Commission, denied in a written statement that it asked for an ownership stake. It said the two sides had held only preliminary talks about the project.

A Pakistani Cabinet official who spoke on condition he not be identified further said the Chinese side asked for clarification of the ownership status of the dam site because Gilgit-Baltistan has yet to be formally made part of a Pakistani province. The water authority didn't respond to requests to clarify its chairman's comments.

"Belt and Road" is interwoven with official efforts to export Chinese rail, hydropower and other technology and steel, aluminum and other industrial goods.

In Thailand, work on a \$15 billion high-speed railway was suspended in 2016 following complaints too little business went to Thai companies.

After more talks over costs, technology sharing and land ownership, Thai leaders announced a new plan in July for a first line to be built from Bangkok to the country's northeast. Building contracts went to Thai companies while China will supply technology.

In Tanzania, the government has reopened negotiations with China and another investor, the government of the gulf nation of Oman, over ownership of a planned \$11 billion port in the city of Bagamoyo. The Tanzanian government failed to raise \$28 million for its contribution, leaving it unclear what share the government might get.

Tanzania wants to make sure its people get more than just taxes collected from the port, said the director of the Tanzania Ports Authority, Deusdedit Kakoko.

"Land is for Tanzanians, and as the government we're ensuring they get a share," Kakoko said in an interview.

Despite such setbacks, Chinese officials say most "Belt and Road" projects are moving ahead with few problems.

Work on pipelines to deliver oil and gas from Russia and Central Asia is making "steady progress," said a deputy commerce minister, Li Chenggang, at a Nov. 21 news conference.

"We have a lot of room for further cooperation," said Li.

The state-run China Development Bank announced in 2015 it had set aside \$890 billion for more than 900 projects across 60 countries in gas, minerals, power, telecoms, infrastructure and farming. The Export-Import Bank of China said it would finance 1,000 projects in 49 countries.

Acting as banker gives Beijing leverage to require use of Chinese builders and technology. But it can lead to complaints host countries fail to negotiate hard enough.

In Sri Lanka, the government sold an 80 percent stake in a port in the southern city of Hambantota to a Chinese state-owned company on Dec. 9 after falling behind in repaying \$1.5 billion borrowed from Beijing to build it. That prompted complaints the deal was too favorable to Beijing.

"There is the perception of a Chinese incursion into their sovereignty by taking over the port," said BMI's Zhang.

Overdrive

Nissan rolled out the newest generation of its Nissan Maxima sport sedan just two years ago, and now it returns for 2018 with just a few enhancements.

Those include standard Android Auto connectivity (in addition to Apple CarPlay, added last year), new content for the Midnight Edition package, and a new exterior color, Carnelian Red (\$395 extra), which was included on our test vehicle.

Prices for 2018 start at \$33,270 (plus \$885 freight) for the base S model. Other trim levels include the SV (\$35,270); SL (\$37,690); SR (\$38,530); and the top-of-the-line Platinum (\$40,940), which we tested for this report.

With the most-recent redesign, the Maxima moved into its eighth generation as Nissan's flagship sedan. With all of the changes and its stunning good looks, this is the best Maxima ever.

Nissan bills the Maxima as the "4-door Sports Car," and it's powered by the latest VQ-series 3.5-liter V-6 engine, cranking out 300 horsepower and 261 foot-pounds of torque.

The engine directs power to the front wheels through a continuously variable automatic transmission. With front-wheel drive, however, the Maxima might not qualify as a true sports car to some purists.

Nevertheless, the Maxima is fun to drive, with sporty roadhandling and precise, predictable steering and braking. With the redesign, the Maxima now rides on a lighter, more-rigid chassis, which gives it that sporty handling.

It has decent fuel economy, as well. EPA ratings for 2018 are 21 mpg city/30 highway/25 combined.

The Midnight Edition package (\$1,195), available only on the SR grade, now includes the advanced Intelligent Driver Alertness 1 system previously available only on the Platinum version. It also adds a "sport" spoiler, rear diffuser and 19-inch gloss-black aluminum-alloy wheels with center caps.

This year's Maxima also comes with the safety technology added late in the 2017 model year, including Intelligent Forward Collision Warning and Automatic Emergency Braking 2, standard on all models. Automatic Emergency Braking takes over when the system detects the possibility of rear-ending vehicles the Maxima is following.

Our Platinum model's seats were covered with premium



The 2018 Nissan Maxima.

TNS

Nissan Maxima gets some upgrades

BY G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
THE NEWS-SENTINEL (FORT WAYNE, IND.)

NUTS & BOLTS

2018 Nissan Maxima

- **The package:** Premium, mid-size, four-door, five-passenger, V-6 powered, front-wheel drive sport sedan.
 - **Highlights:** Redesigned just two years ago, Nissan's flagship sedan is billed as a "4-door Sports Car." It has plenty of power and is more fun to drive than the typical family car. Beyond that, it's roomy and quite comfortable, with a long list of standard amenities and safety features.
 - **Negatives:** No manual gearbox offered for those who want a sportier driving experience.
 - **Engines:** 3.5-liter V-6.
 - **Transmission:** Continuously variable automatic with paddle shifters.
 - **Power/torque:** 300 HP/261 foot-pounds.
 - **Length:** 192.8 inches.
 - **Curb weight:** 3,471-3,593 pounds.
 - **Brakes, front/rear:** Disc/disc, antilock.
 - **Trunk volume:** 14.3 cubic feet.
 - **Side air bags:** Front seat-mounted, roof-mounted side-curtain for both rows, standard.
 - **Electronic stability control:** Standard.
 - **Fuel capacity/type:** 18 gallons/unleaded premium recommended but not required.
 - **EPA fuel economy:** 21 mpg city/30 highway/25 combined.
 - **Major competitors:** Toyota Avalon, Buick LaCrosse, Dodge Charger, Chrysler 300, Chevrolet Impala, Ford Taurus, Honda Accord EX V-6.
 - **Base price range:** \$33,270-\$40,940, plus \$835 freight.
 - **Price as tested:** \$42,220, including freight and premium paint (Platinum model).
 - **On the Road rating:** 9.3 (of a possible 10).
- Prices shown are manufacturer's suggested retail; actual selling price may vary.

storage bin like they are on a lot of other vehicles.

The transmission shifted smoothly throughout the power band, and there was quite impressive acceleration from this drivetrain. It even came with steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters to pace the car through a range of gears.

The CVT has a wider gear-ratio range for stronger acceleration from a standing start, and D-Step shifting logic that allows for rapid shifts at high throttle openings, Nissan says.

A Drive Mode Selector has

Sport and Normal settings, which automatically adjust the throttle, transmission, steering and Active Sound Enhancement tuning.

In Sport mode, throttle response increases, the transmission alters its program for more-aggressive shifting, and more steering effort is required. The Active Sound Enhancement system sends more of the engine noise into the cabin.

When the new generation Maxima arrived, it came with the reworked VQ-series engine, which has more than 60 percent new parts com-

pared with the previous generation. It also features some technology adapted from the Nissan GT-R supercar, such as sodium-filled valves.

The car also features the new "swipe to meter" feature, which allows the driver to swipe the navigation map from the center display to bring it up in the standard seven-inch driver-assist display in front of the driver in the middle of the instrument cluster.

For 2018, besides the Midnight Edition package, the factory options list is short and uncomplicated. The most-expensive item is the 18-inch wheels package for the SV, SL and Platinum models (\$900). A black rear sport spoiler adds \$430, or the premium body-color spoiler is available for \$405. Illuminated kick plates (\$375) are offered on all grades; so are splash guards (\$200).

There are also some port-installed accessories available, including rocker panel moldings (\$420), external ground lighting (\$240) and an interior lighting package (\$250). Pearl White exterior paint also costs \$395 extra. Other colors for 2018 include Super Black, Brilliant Silver, Gun Metallic and Deep Blue Pearl.

Besides the cashmere, interior color choices include charcoal and camel.

The Maxima is a full-size sedan that competes against such stalwarts as the Toyota Avalon, Chevrolet Impala, Chrysler 300 and Dodge Charger.

The cabin has been crafted

to rival those of luxury vehicles. With the redesign, the Maxima was made 1.3 inches lower and 2.2 inches longer than the previous generation, which arrived for 2009.

We had plenty of room for our knees and legs both in the front and the rear, and three medium-size adults could sit fairly comfortably together on the rear bench seat. There is a pull-down armrest with dual cupholders for use when you're carrying just two people in the back seat.

Among other standard Maxima features are four-wheel power/vented antilock disc brakes with electronic brake-force distribution and brake assist, rearview monitor, active noise cancellation, dual-zone automatic climate control, and a HomeLink universal gate/garage opener.

The standard Intelligent Driver Alertness system monitors steering inputs and alerts the driver audibly and visually when drowsy/inattentive driving is detected. The Platinum also comes with rain-sensing wipers, along with memory for the driver's seat, outside mirrors and steering wheel.

A dual-panel panoramic moon roof is standard on SL and Platinum models, and there are also large dual chrome tailpipe finishers.

Other safety features on our tester included adaptive cruise control, blind-spot warning with rear cross-traffic alert, stability and traction control, tire-pressure monitoring with Nissan's Easy-Fill alert system, and a security system with vehicle immobilizer.

The Maxima also came with speed-sensitive hydro-electric power steering, heated outside mirrors with turn signals, front and rear parking sensors, front halogen fog lights, LED daytime running lights and LED low-beam headlights.

Eighteen-inch machined-finish aluminum-alloy wheels with dark-painted inserts were standard, along with 245/45R18 all-season tires.

There is a new "command central" instrument panel with a center stack angled seven degrees toward the driver. A floating console is designed to put key controls within easy reach. The Intelligent Key pushbutton start switch is on the console to the left and front of the shifter, and it pulses when the driver enters the cabin.

The only option on our Platinum model was the special paint. Total sticker price was \$42,220, including the paint and freight.

Life & Style

After outcry, Mark Wahlberg donates \$1.5 million film fee

NEW YORK (AP)—Following an outcry over a significant disparity in pay between co-stars, Mark Wahlberg agreed Saturday to donate the \$1.5 million he earned for reshoots for “All the Money in the World” to the sexual misconduct defense initiative Time’s Up.

Wahlberg said he’ll donate the money in the name of his co-star, Michelle Williams, who reportedly made less than \$1,000 on the reshoots.

“I 100% support the fight for fair pay,” Wahlberg said in a statement.

Williams issued a statement Saturday, saying: “Today isn’t about me. My fellow actresses stood by me and stood up for me, my activist friends taught me to use my voice, and the most powerful men in charge, they listened and they acted.”

She noted that “it takes equal effort and sacrifice” to make a film.

“Today is one of the most indelible days of my life because of Mark Wahlberg, WME (William Morris Endeavor) and a community of women and men who share in this accomplishment.”



This image released by Sony Pictures shows Michelle Williams, left, and Mark Wahlberg in TriStar Pictures’ “All The Money in the World.” AP

Wahlberg and his agency, William Morris Endeavor, donated \$2 million to #Time’sUp, the legal defense fund founded in response to the #MeToo movement.

The announcement Saturday came after directors and stars, including Jessica Chastain and Judd Apatow, shared their shock at reports of the huge pay disparity for the Ridley Scott film. The 10 days of reshoots were necessary after Kevin Spacey was replaced by Christopher Plummer when accusations of sexual misconduct surfaced against Spacey. USA Today reported Williams was paid less than \$1,000 for the 10 days.

Both Williams and Plummer were nominated for Golden Globes for their performances. William Morris Endeavor said in a statement that wage disparity conversations should continue and “we are committed to being part of the solution.”

‘Jumanji’ tops ‘The Post,’ ‘The Commuter’ at MLK box office

NEW YORK (AP)—Meryl Streep, Liam Neeson, Taraji P. Henson and Paddington Bear and all rushed into movie theaters over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, but “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle” still roared the loudest with an estimated \$27 million in ticket sales, Friday to Sunday.

“Jumanji” easily remained the no. 1 film in North America despite an onslaught of new challengers, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Sony Pictures release is now approaching \$300 million domestically and, after grossing \$40 million in China this weekend, a worldwide total of \$667 million.

Coming closest was Steven Spielberg’s Pentagon Papers drama “The Post,” starring Streep as Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham and Tom Hanks as editor Ben Bradlee. Twentieth Century Fox is forecasting \$18.6 million for the weekend and \$22.2 million for the four-day holiday.

It’s a solid result for “The Post” in its nationwide expansion following several weeks of limited release. Made for about \$50 million and fast-tracked after the election of President Donald Trump, “The Post” is considered by many a timely commentary on the power of the press, and a rebuke of Trump

1. “Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle,” \$27 million (\$81 million international).
2. “The Post,” \$18.6 million (\$1.7 million international).
3. “The Commuter,” \$13.5 million (\$6.3 million international).
4. “Insidious: The Last Key,” \$12.1 million (\$17.7 million international).
5. “The Greatest Showman,” \$11.8 million (\$15.2 million international).
6. “Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” \$11.3 million (\$19 million international).
7. “Paddington 2,” \$10.6 million (\$1.9 million international).
8. “Proud Mary,” \$10 million.
9. “Pitch Perfect 3,” \$5.7 million (\$8.3 million international).
10. “Darkest Hour,” \$4.5 million (\$10.6 million international).

from some of Hollywood’s biggest names.

“It resonates with an older audience because they were around and remember this particular moment in time,” said Fox distribution chief Chris Aronson. “But it really resonates with a younger audience and that’s the segment of the audience that will continue to discover this movie and realize how timely it is.”

Fox and “The Post” will hope the strong box office results help resuscitate the

film’s Oscar momentum. The movie went home empty-handed at last weekend’s Golden Globes and wasn’t nominated by the BAFTA Awards. Oscar nominations voting ended Friday.

Landing in third was the Neeson thriller “The Commuter,” a Lionsgate release in partnership with StudioCanal. The modest \$13.5 million opening for the film—Neeson’s fourth with director Jaume Collet-Serra (“Non-Stop,” “Unknown,” “Run All Night”)—suggested some of the thrill of Neeson’s action-movie period, kicked off 10 years ago with the \$145 million hit “Taken,” may be waning.

The star’s last three films—“Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the White House,” “Silence” and “Monster Calls”—have all disappointed at the box office.

The children’s book adaptation sequel “Paddington 2” opened with \$10.6 million. The film, originally to be distributed in North America over the Christmas holiday by The Weinstein Co., was sold to Warner Bros. after any association with the disgraced Weinstein Co. co-chairman Harvey Weinstein was deemed toxic for the film.

The juggled rollout of the movie—plus the breakout success of “Jumanji” as

the go-to family film—may have hurt “Paddington 2.” Despite rave reviews, it did about half the \$19 million debut of its 2015 predecessor. It’s done better overseas, where it’s grossed \$139.8 million thus far.

The R-rated “Proud Mary,” starring Henson as a hit woman, followed close behind with \$10 million. Though some accused Sony’s Screen Gems of burying the film (it didn’t screen for critics), the movie drew poor reviews and even criticism from John Fogerty, who accused the film of exploiting the title to his

Reports: London’s Harrods to remove Diana memorial

LONDON (AP)—Harrods, the luxury London department store and tourist destination, is reportedly planning to remove a memorial to Princess Diana and Dodi Fayed.

British media, including The Times and the BBC, reported Saturday that the bronze statue will be returned to Dodi’s fa-

ther, Mohammed Al Fayed, the Egyptian tycoon who previously owned Harrods.

The businessman commissioned the bronze statue depicting his son and Diana dancing after the two were killed in a Paris car crash in 1997. The statue was installed in 2005 and remained at Harrods

Most surprising, though, is

that the holiday season hold-over powering the January box office isn’t “Star Wars: The Last Jedi” but “Jumanji.” The reboot, starring Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart and Jack Black, has now been the no. 1 film two weeks running after spending its initial two weeks of release trailing “The Last Jedi.”

“This box office trajectory of ‘Jumanji’ is somewhat unprecedented and certainly unexpected,” said Dergarabedian. “Right now, it’s the films that have been out there for a while that are inspiring the most enthusiasm and that’s been tough for the newcomers.”

after the Qatari royal family bought the store in 2010.

The news reports quoted Harrods managing director Michael Ward as saying that with a new Diana statue planned for Kensington Palace, it is the right time to return the one at the store to Al Fayed.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus marks chemo end with ‘Beat It’ video

Julia Louis-Dreyfus has marked the end of chemo by posting an Instagram video of her grown sons lip-syncing to Michael Jackson’s “Beat It.”

The “Veep” star and “Seinfeld” alum said of Charlie and Henry, her two kids with Brad Hall: “Ain’t they sweet?”

Louis-Dreyfus an-

nounced in September she had been diagnosed with breast cancer. She said she found out the day after winning an Emmy for “Veep.” She’s been sharing her journey and support from loved ones and fans on social media ever since.

The video is titled: “Mom’s

last chemo day!!! BEAT IT!!! Love, Henry and Charlie.” Louis-Dreyfus called her sons “My beauty boys.”

The video posted Friday had been viewed more than 500,000 times as of Saturday afternoon.

Louis-Dreyfus turned 57 Saturday. (AP)

UK party suspends leader's girlfriend over Markle remarks

LONDON (AP)—The U.K. Independence Party on Sunday suspended the membership of the girlfriend of the party's leader after she reportedly made racist remarks about Prince Harry's fiancée, American actress Meghan Markle.

In a statement, Jo Marney apologized for the "shocking language" she used in a series of text messages to a friend, but said her words had been "taken out of context."

The Mail on Sunday newspaper reported that the 25-year-old Marney, who describes herself as a model and actor, made offensive comments about Markle and black people, including calling them "ugly."

UKIP leader Henry Bolton said Marney's membership in the party, known for its anti-European Union stance, was



In this file photo dated Monday, Dec. 25, 2017, Meghan Markle fiancée of Prince Harry walks with members of the British Royal family for the traditional Christmas Day church service, at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham, England.

suspended immediately. Marney doesn't hold an official post in the party.

Markle, who will wed Harry in May, has spoken publicly and written about being proudly biracial, and also about how it affected her acting career.

Last year, Harry criticized some media reports and on-

line comments for drawing negative attention to Markle's African-American heritage.

The prince issued a strongly worded statement condemning the "outright sexism and racism" in some comments about Markle, and said some articles with "racial undertones" crossed the line.

Expletives dot the weekend TV comedy, sports landscape

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Expletives dotted the weekend television landscape.

On "Saturday Night Live," guest host Sam Rockwell let one slip during a skit. He was playing an increasingly frustrated TV science host trying to lead two clueless students through an experiment.

"You can't be this (expletive) stupid!" Rockwell exclaimed, immediately putting his hand to his mouth and saying "sorry" before continuing. "SNL" cast members Cecily Strong and Mikey Day, playing the kids, also reacted. Strong put her fingers in her ears and Day feigned an exaggerated look of shock.

On the late-night show's "Weekend Update" segment,

anchor Colin Jost mentioned President Donald Trump's vulgar reference to African nations as "s-holes," omitting the expletive.

He explained that NBC asked him to clean up the quote. But Jost added if the president can say the full word, so can he. So he did.

Rockwell's and Jost's expletives were deleted in taped re-broadcasts of the show.

On an NBC Sports Network soccer telecast, Liverpool, England, team manager Juergen Klopp dropped a curse word in a post-match interview Sunday.

Asked if he wanted to apologize, he replied, smiling, "I thought in America that was OK? In England, it's not possible to use those words."

Comedian Aziz Ansari responds to sex misconduct allegations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedian Aziz Ansari has responded to allegations of sexual misconduct by a woman he dated last year.

Ansari said in a statement Sunday that he apologized last

year when she told him about her discomfort during a sexual encounter in his apartment he said he believed to be consensual.

The woman, identified as a 23-year-old photographer in an interview with Babe.net,

says she was furious when she saw Ansari was wearing a "Time's Up" pin while accepting a Golden Globe on Jan. 7.

She said it brought back memories of him assaulting her after a date in his

apartment.

The next day, Grace texted Ansari letting him know that she was upset with his behavior that night.

Ansari says he was surprised and apologized.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Clooney directing, starring in 'Catch-22' drama series

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—George Clooney is directing and starring in a TV series version of the novel "Catch-22." Streaming service Hulu said Sunday that the six-part series based on Joseph Heller's anti-war satire will go into production in 2018. A debut date and other cast members weren't announced. Clooney will play Col. Cathcart in the drama

he's directing with his Smokehouse Pictures partner, Grant Heslov. Smokehouse is producing it with Paramount Television and Anonymous Content. The 1961 novel focuses on a World War II Air Force bombardier, John Yossarian, whose determined efforts to evade combat are thwarted by a bureaucratic rule, Catch-22, which became a lasting catchphrase for a no-win situation. A 1970 film based on "Catch-22" was directed by Mike Nichols and

starred Alan Arkin as Yossarian and Martin Balsam as Cathcart.

Carrie Underwood, Ludacris write song for Super Bowl

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country star Carrie Underwood teamed up with Ludacris to co-write a new song, "The Champion," which will open the Super Bowl on Feb. 4 airing on NBC. The song and the accompanying video was released Friday. "The Cham-

pion," also written by country songwriters Brett James and Chris DeStefano, will be incorporated into NBC Sports coverage of the 2018 Winter Games as well. Underwood said in a statement that "our main focus was to celebrate athletes at the top of their game, but we also wanted the song to resonate with people in their everyday lives." Underwood has been performing the opening song for Sunday Night Football on NBC for the last five seasons.

Dennis Rodman arrested on suspicion of DUI in California

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Police say former NBA star Dennis Rodman has been arrested on suspicion of DUI in Southern California.

Lt. Rachel Johnson of the Newport Beach Police Department says Rodman was pulled over late Saturday for a traffic violation.

Johnson says officers administered a field sobriety test,

which Rodman failed. She says he submitted to a Breathalyzer test and blew over the .08 legal limit.

Rodman was released from custody Sunday morning. Johnson didn't immediately know if he had an attorney.

An email seeking comment from Rodman's representatives was not immediately returned Sunday.

Husband's long beard is hard for wife to stomach at dinner

DEAR ABBY: My husband has a long, bushy, ugly beard, and although I don't like it, I realize he's entitled to wear his facial hair any way he likes it. The problem is, when he eats, his beard gets into his plate and in the food, which I find nauseating.

TOO MUCH HAIR IN TEXAS

DEAR TOO MUCH HAIR: If your husband's beard is so long it drags his food off his plate, the first thing you should do is suggest that he sit up straighter when he's eating. However, if he's unwilling — or unable — to do that, perhaps he would consider using one hand to hold his beard aside when he's about to take a forkful, or using hair clips to keep it away from his food.

Readers, if you have suggestions to help this grossed-out Texas wife, I'd love to see them.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is a smart, independent woman —until she gets a boyfriend. She has been dating ever since Dad died in 1994.

Every relationship starts out well; the guy seems nice. Then he moves into her house and things change. Mom stops thinking for herself and turns into a brainless, spineless puppet. It causes conflict between us because she thinks I'm selfish and trying to sabotage her relationship.

She has had her current boyfriend for two years. I'm 37, dis-

abled and require some help from Mom. So do my grandparents and a family friend Mom takes care of to supplement her income. The boyfriend is pushing Mom to spend three to four months of the year with him in Arizona, leaving those of us who need her without help.

None of these men ever help her out financially. Should I say nothing and let her disappear? What happens to the people who depend on her?

JUST HER DAUGHTER IN COLORADO

DEAR JUST: What happens to the ADULTS who depend on your mother is they arrange for outside assistance during the time she's in Arizona. And if this is the first time in years that she will have taken a break, you should all wish her well.

DEAR ABBY: One of my co-workers constantly interrupts when I'm having a conversation with other people. It doesn't seem to matter who I am speaking with or what the subject is. She'll interrupt in the middle of the conversation, and everyone must stop and look at her or acknowledge her.

We are in a professional environment, and I feel her behavior is extremely discourteous. The subjects she discusses are things like the sandwiches her husband bought the day before, what they had for dinner that night or whatever is trending at the moment. She never discusses work-related issues.

This happens every day and it's disruptive. Would you kindly

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



share some ideas on how to deal with her interruptions?

BOTHERED OFFICE GUY

DEAR OFFICE GUY: Obviously, your co-worker was never taught that interrupting while others are talking is rude. Because it bothers you, the next time she does it, tell her it's distracting when she breaks into your conversations and to please stop. If she persists, and other co-workers feel as you do about it, bring it to the attention of your supervisor or HR and let that person handle it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



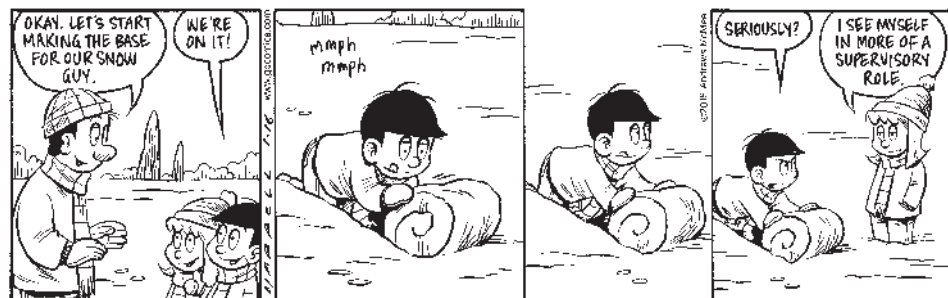
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



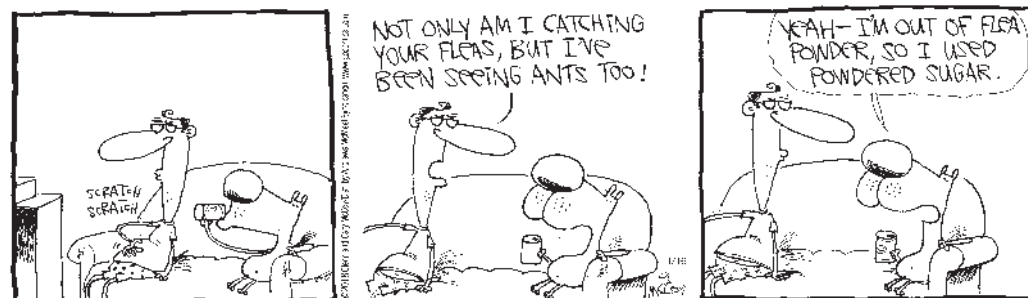
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Not many knives

5 Moon-shine vessel

8 Curved molding

12 Surrealist Salvador

13 Greek H

14 The Big Easy acronym

15 Reverie

17 It grows on you

18 Gratuity

19 Lass

21 Buck-wheat porridge

24 Hunger symptom

25 Raw minerals

26 April celebration

30 "— the ramparts ..."

31 Arm bones

32 Mound stat

33 Symbolic end of summer

35 Mr. Frost

36 Injure

DOWN

2 Air safety org.

3 TV Tarzan

4 Shoe stats

5 Army transport

6 Broad-way's Hagen

7 Electro-magnetic radiation

8 In the heavens

9 Incite

10 Writer Wiesel

11 Deserve

16 Estuary

20 Pot starter

21 — Aid

22 Vicinity

23 Bel-grade resident

24 Old TWA rival

26 "Soul On Ice" author

27 Bargain

28 Not pizzicato

29 Tibetan herd

31 Russian river

34 "Yeah, right!"

35 Jump from gig to gig

37 Greyhound vehicle

38 Pooch

39 Celestial bear

40 Wax-coated cheese

41 Church song

44 Nay undoer

45 "— Believer"

46 Distant

47 Italian "three"

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kate Moss, 44; Richard T. Jones, 46; Debbie Allen, 68; John Carpenter, 70.

Happy Birthday: Set your goals for the year and don't stop until you are happy with what you have achieved. Your determination and desire will be recognizable, resulting in respect as well as rewards. What you discover will lead to new and unusual interests that can determine your direction for the remainder of your life. Think big, dig in and embrace change. Your numbers are 7, 10, 18, 27, 30, 36, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay calm and keep your work and personal life separate. Your performance will be key to your advancement as well as to maintaining a sense of structure in your life. Don't make changes based on hearsay or a senseless argument. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Partnerships are favored. Business meetings, travel and using past experience to ensure you get what you want will help you establish your strengths. Knowing what you have to offer will give you the upper hand when negotiations take place. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't travel to unfamiliar places or try to make changes that go against the rules. Don't promise anything you cannot readily supply. Protect against injury and emotional battles. Discipline and control will be required regarding money matters. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll be tempted to spend money on something you don't need or make a donation with-

out knowing enough about the organization asking for help. Use your imagination and you'll find cheaper ways to make physical improvements or to assist others. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be emotionally charged and eager to bring about changes. Consider the consequences of your actions if other people are involved. It is best to take baby steps instead of catapulting into the unknown. Minimize your dreams to fit your budget. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Friends, relatives, children and parents will all have something to contribute that will encourage you to follow through with your dreams. The possibilities are endless if you use your imagination and skills to help you reach your goals. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Relationship changes will take you by surprise if you have lost touch or haven't been paying attention to what's going on right in front of you. Don't take anyone or anything for granted or you may suffer a loss. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll excel if you present what you have to offer. Your skills and intellect will help you gain respect as well as the go-ahead to follow through with your plans. A partnership that will allow you to expand your interests looks promising. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't divulge information that may be used against you. Someone from your past will disrupt your life if you are too generous or forthcoming regarding your life goals, beliefs

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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and personal passwords. An offer will not live up to your expectations. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a different approach to the way you do your job or handle your responsibilities. Your ability to foster new ideas and turn them into something spectacular will give you the momentum you need to reach your goals. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The best way to move forward and make positive changes is to recognize what isn't working for you anymore and make revisions. Study the results you've been getting and make a point to start with small but effective adjustments. ***

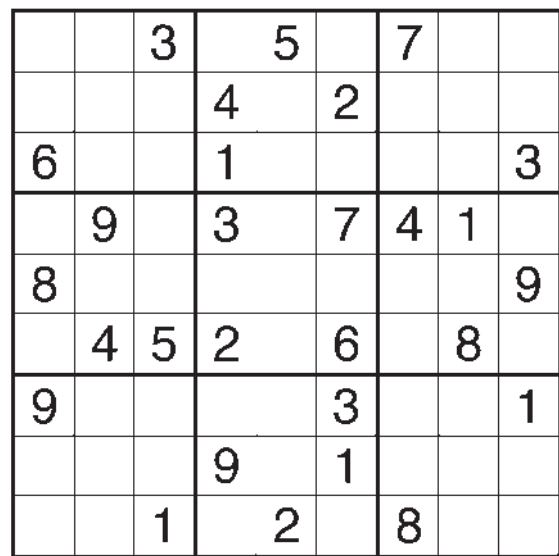
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look at investments that show promise and dedicate your time and effort to being part of something that has the potential to grow. Offer suggestions as well as a commitment to see matters through to the end. ****

Birthday Baby: You are direct, forceful and ambitious. You are unique and productive. To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

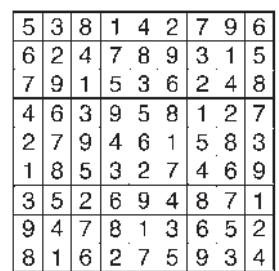


Difficulty Level ★★

1/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★

1/17

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CLARION CALLS

Solution: 7 letters

Y F I N U R G E N T L Y N D I
M N E E D U B T E A A O E N N
E L O R D D N C T T I L T A S
S A E M R E I T S T B E S M T
S N G N I O J P C I R P I E R
A G N L V T E A B P E L L D U
G I A C E C S R R A C E S C C
E S H A I E A E K G O A L L T
R S C A V L T E S T R E B L E I
E H L E U A O S L C H M E A O
Q U N G T U Y B A L E A D R N
U T N I N R U T M H L R U S H
E I O D C O N V E Y P C I E O
S N E R U T P I R C S H A D R
T E P M U R T E H P O R P S N

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1/16

Action, Bible, Change, Clear, Convey, Cry, Demand, Direct, Drive, Event, Goal, Haste, Hear, Help, Horn, Instruction, Interpretation, Join, Lead, Listen, March, Message, Need, Plea, Prophet, Races, Request, Role, Rude, Rush, Salient, Scripture, Shut, Signal, Singular, Sound, Speak, Special, Stay, Symbolic, Teach, Testimony, Treble, Trumpet, Turn, Unity, Urgently, Voice

Yesterday's Answer: Upside Down

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Long time no see

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune’s Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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|-----------|---------|-----------------------------|
| • 3-Liner | \$15 | \$30 |
| • 5-Liner | \$24 | \$45 |

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

TIME

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OPQRSTUVWXYZ

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2) Accounting Clerk - Atleast 2 yrs. experience. Proficient in various computer software, such as MS Excel, Word, Peach Tree & other Accounting Softwares.

(1) Inventory Clerk – High School Diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 yrs. related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

(2) Sewing Machine Operator – High School Diploma or general education degree; or one to 2 yrs. related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

(3) Beautician/Barber - Skilled in all areas of beauty treatments such as hair cut, hair colors/highlights/rebonding; waxing, manicure & pedicure, acrylic nails. Willing to work flexible time.

(1) Quality Control Checker - Atleast 2 yrs. experience as Quality Control Checker or related work. Atleast High School graduate, flexible, and hardworking.

(1) Househelper - Knowledge in cooking Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Cuisine is a must. Experienced in household chores like cleaning, ironing, gardening, paying bills, and baby sitting. With valid driver's license.

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All applications will be considered solely on the basis of qualifications and ability, as the company does not unlawfully discriminate from consideration for employment on a basis of race, color, creed, religion, ancestry, age, sex, marital status, national origin, disability or handicap, veteran status, or any other protected status under applicable local and federal laws.

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Wireless Ridge Landscaping

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(3) GROUND MAINTENANCE
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Also performs grounds keeping duties and other related duties as assigned. Minimum qualifications: 3-12 months of related work experience, with a high school or GED diploma.

(1) NURSERY WORKER
Perform residential and commercial landscaping work including design conceptualization and layout, preparation of plant materials, soil preparation, planting and maintenance. Take care of nursery plants, including propagation and maintenance, proper storage and use fertilizer, and proper storage and application of insecticides. Experience with propagation and care of orchids highly desirable, as well as experience with tropical plants and general nursery related duties. Minimum qualifications: 3 months of related work experience, with a high school or GED diploma.

All positions close 5:00pm on Friday, January 19, 2018.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume. It should also include a valid Police Clearance no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
Wireless Ridge Landscaping is an equal opportunity employer.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Registered Nurses: (09)

- Must pass NCLEX-RN with current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- One to two years hemodialysis experience or related field
- English language skills-proficient in verbal, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-service training with Baxter Phoenix machine
- Experience with Ameriwater bicarbonate distribution system

Hemodialysis Technicians: (7)

- Certificate from Junior College/Technician School in healthcare related field
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- Three years hemodialysis experienced-preferred
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Water Treatment Technicians: (02)

- Must be able to perform task which may at first glance not appear difficult but required a high degree of knowledge and experience to properly operate and maintain system
- Operational knowledge of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems
- Knowledge of the theory fluid dynamics
- Understand the mathematical relationships and common formulas of basic water treatment and distribution systems
- Know the specific operations of the water treatment distribution systems unique to a dialysis unit
- Be familiar with infection control of hemodialysis facilities, safety & life safety policies
- Pass the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency text for certified water treatment and distribution operators level II
- Understand the plumbing code and plumbing techniques
- Be able to demonstrate safe working techniques, proper plumbing techniques when working with pressure vessels
- Be able to demonstrate proper plumbing techniques especially when working with pvc
- To accept and perform all other duties as may be assigned

Building Maintenance and Repair: (03)

- Performs a variety of preventive maintenance and repair tasks on the facilities equipment, including some of the more complex repair tasks
- Performs preventive maintenance and makes routine repairs to electrical, plumbing and security systems
- Performs rough and finish carpentry work and takes the lead on projects such as building and paneling walls and petitions
- Installs solar panels with experience in the maintenance of pv models
- Maintains and repairs various equipment
- High school graduate or equivalent

Commercial Cleaners: (02)

- Operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, such as vacuums, buffers, etc.
- Maintain facility in a sanitary and infection-free condition through washing, cleaning and replacement of equipment and furnishings
- Requires working in damp, dusty and dirty areas. Must clean up human waste and other body fluids, as required
- Responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials'
- Must handle various cleaning solvents and chemicals that is required by Medicare
- Damp dust furniture, light fixtures, windows, etc.
- Empty trash containers daily
- Clean and mop bathrooms daily. Mop all corridor floors, lobby and others floors daily
- Report any needed repairs immediately
- Check entire area for spills, water, etc., periodically, especially in patients' areas and lobby
- Use safety precautions in all housekeeping and post occupancy
- Is required to maintain and clean in an orderly manner at the business office, Dr.'s office, accounting office, dietician and clinic manager's office
- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must have own transportation

Interested applicant must submit resume or pick up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc. in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.



(1) Driver, (1) Inventory Clerk, (2) Sales Representative, (6) Fisherman, (1) Sales Supervisor. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

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Marie Adell
Saipan Tribune

Vice President, Sales & Marketing for Korean Market: College graduate with 4 years bachelors degree (may be foreign equivalent); 4 years of professional passenger & cargo sales, marketing experience in airline operations. Can read, write & speak Korean; extensive knowledge of airline operations & track record of accomplishing business objectives. Plans, directs, coordinates, determines & formulates policies & operational activities of the company. Engaged in aircraft ground handling & tourism services in Saipan, CNMI. Send resume to Pacific Oriental, Inc. P.O. Box 504930, Saipan, MP 96950.



Marianas Medical Center

is seeking for U.S. qualified workers for the following positions:

(1) Accountant
Bachelor's degree in Accounting with three (3) years of accounting experience is required. Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). Proficiency in Microsoft Office applications, excellent verbal and written communication skills, analytical and problem-solving abilities, and the ability to multi-task in a fast-paced environment is also required. Experience working in a medical field setting is preferred.

(1) Building Maintenance
High school diploma or GED, plus five (5) years of relevant work experience.

(1) Medical Coder & Biller
Must be a Certified Professional Coder (CPC), or a Certified Professional Coder Apprentice (CPC-A) with at least one (1) year of relevant work experience as a Medical Coder and Biller. Must have the ability to understand and assess medical diagnosis and procedure codes. Must be able to compile data, compute fees and charges and prepare claims and invoices for billing purposes. Must have the ability to provide education to physicians and other business personnel regarding medical coding.

(1) Midwife (part-time)
College graduate completion of accredited Midwifery training program approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with five (5) years of work experience in Midwifery. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Midwife in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment.

(2) Radiology Technician
College degree in Radiology from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with two (2) years of relevant work experience as a Radiology Technician. Must have the ability to take, review, evaluate and operate X-Ray, Ultrasound, Mammogram and Echocardiogram equipment. Must be licensed under Health Care Professions Licensing Board as a Radiology Technician in the CNMI. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment.

(5) Registered Nurse (RN)
College graduate degree in Nursing from a school approved by the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners (CBNE), with two (2) years of work experience as a nurse or working in a similar capacity in a health care or medical setting. Must pass US NCLEX-RN and is licensed as an RN by CBNE. Must have the ability to work proficiently in a fast-paced clinical environment. Ability to speak and translate in the Chinese language is preferred.

All positions close 5:00pm on Friday, January 19, 2018.
Applications are available at the Marianas Medical Center. Applications should include a resume and evidence of education degree(s) and professional licenses claimed. It should also include a valid Police Clearance of no more than 6 months old. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Testing may be required for some positions. Marianas Medical Center is an equal opportunity employer.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL MVA-RFP-18-2009

For: Local Publication and Media Services

Submission /Closing Date: **February 23, 2018**
Time: **3:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority
Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **January 16, 2018**, at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified courier services by February 23, 2018, and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the Commonwealth must notify the MVA/ Mr. David B. Muna in writing of their intent to submit a proposal in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. Participants outside the **Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands** must submit a Notice of Intent by any mode of written communication including facsimile at +1-670-664-3237 or email to dmuna@mymarianas.com, and must be received by 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on **February 23, 2018**.

All questions regarding this RFP must be sent to Mr. David B. Muna at dmuna@mymarianas.com or faxed to +1-670-664-3237, **no later than 5 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time on February 09, 2018**.

/s/ Gloria C. Cavanagh
Chairperson, Board of Directors

/s/ Christopher A. Concepcion
Managing Director

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Registered Nurse: (04)

- Must pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in nursing
- At least three to six years' experience
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

Front Office Manager: (01)

- At least over six years experience in medical billing, electronic health records and practice partner record
- Must be familiar with medical terminology, ICD 9, coding of medical procedures and diagnosis
- College graduate
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must be certified pharmacy technician
- Must be proficient in computer skills, spreadsheet and general accounting skills.

Ultrasound/X-Ray Technician: (02)

- At least six years experience or related field
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Radiology Technology
- Must be over six years experience in electronic health and practice partner records
- Experience/knowledge with practice partner software in electronic health records usage
- Licensed by Medical Professional Licensing Board, CNMI

General Yard Maintenance: (01)

- At least two years preferred skills and experience
- Experience in assisting in building construction/renovation
- Maintaining the interior and exterior of the clinic in a neat and orderly condition
- Maintaining of plants in transplanting and fertilizing
- Assist in cleaning of clinic air conditionings
- Be flexible in assisting in other related maintenance duties
- Be flexible with time schedule

Healthcare Clinic System Manager: (01)

- Minimum of three to five years of work related skills, knowledge or experience
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent
- Maintains specialized computer programs relating to health care operations (medical billing, patient records, scheduler)
- Maintain all of company computer systems to include computer hardware, software, computer network and advance server skills
- Oversees medical billing department utilizing specialized computer software
- Oversees administrative areas and designs, develops and maintains a paperless computer system
- Building maintenance repair, electronic records and prescription with meaningful use in compliance with Medicare and Medicaid standards
- Performs such other duties as may be assigned

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application or resume will be on Friday, January 19, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call 234-2901 ext. 128.

Job Vacancy Announcements YANO Enterprises, Inc. dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Assistant Manager (1): Be able to assist the general manager in the supervision of business establishment to ensure the restaurant & stores efficiency & profitable operations; work closely with the personnel in preparation & processing of reservations, greets & answers customers inquiry, patrons complaints & resolve problems. Prepare advertising campaigns of the restaurant & stores to attract customers. Assist in doing daily inventory of foods, merchandise and assets of the business. Duties include but are not limited to delegating authority & assigning responsibilities, reviewing financial transactions & monitoring budget limitations, & be able to present written & oral reports on the company's financial & operational status. Must have Japanese oral skills & knowledge of Japanese food products.

Restaurant Supervisor (2): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Accountant (1): Must be efficient in handling financial records, statements, & reports. Have knowledge on all Taxes computation & filing. Must be able to budget & estimate purchasing costs & requisitions of merchandise necessary in the company.

Restaurant Waitress (5): Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (6): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

General Maintenance (3): Must have a valid CNMI driver's license and flexible in work hours. Duties may involve skills in electrical, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, painting, landscape or maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. Can typically perform variety of task such as sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking and installing, repairing buildings, floors or stairs.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of all positions listed above **except Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience)** are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Deadline to submit application will be on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:00pm.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.

We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered. Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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Venus, Stephens ousted in Australian Open



MELBOURNE
(AP)—In her first match at the Australian

Open since a Williams sister was guaranteed to win the title, Venus Williams lost in the first round to Belinda Bencic and ensured it cannot happen in 2018.

Venus lost last year's final at Melbourne Park to younger sibling Serena, who clinched an Open era-record 23rd major but hasn't played a Grand Slam tournament since because of her pregnancy and the birth of her first child.

The 6-3, 7-5 loss for Venus Williams was her first in five career meetings with Bencic, who lost to Serena Williams in the first round here last year.

The 20-year-old Bencic saved five break points in the eighth game before a rain delay caused an almost half-hour suspension of play as the roof was closed on Rod Laver Arena. She returned on a roll, winning the next six points to hold serve and then clinch the set.

Bencic teamed up with Roger Federer to win the Hopman Cup for Switzerland in the first week of the season, and had the 19-time major winner's parents in the crowd supporting her on Monday.

It must have helped, having overcome the surprise when



the draw was made that she'd have to play another Williams in the first round.

"Honestly, the first reaction of everyone was 'Oh, bad luck.' But of course, it would be nice to play somebody easier first round and get your rhythm a little bit," Bencic said.

"It's amazing, when I was a little girl, I was watching them

on TV. I never thought I'd get a chance to play them."

Williams' exit followed U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens' 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-2 loss to Zhang Shuai.

No. 13-seeded Stephens was serving for the match in the 10th game of the second set but dropped her serve. She was outplayed in the tiebreaker and in the third set.

It always shaped as a tough opener for Stephens, who hasn't won a tour-level match since her Grand Slam breakthrough triumph at the U.S. Open last year and facing a player ranked No. 34, two spots off being seeded for the first major of the season.

Stephens didn't play last year's Australian Open because of a left foot injury that

kept her out of action until Wimbledon. Since beating Madison Keys in the U.S. Open final, Stephens has lost eight matches.

"Sloane she plays so well, won the U.S. Open—everyone know—she's a great player," Zhang said. "I know how hard I'm working ... coming to

United States' Venus Williams reaches out for a forehand return to Switzerland's Belinda Bencic during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

Australia I'm ready for every match, every player. That's why I won today."

French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko made a positive start with a 6-1, 6-4 win over 37-year-old Francesca Schiavone, the 2010 French Open winner.

Ostapenko saved two break points in the third game of the opening set and clinched the set with an ace. After an exchange of service breaks in the second, Ostapenko got the decisive break in the ninth game, then served out the match after double-faulting on her first match point.

Three other Americans went out in earlier matches, with 10th-seeded CoCo Vandeweghe losing to Timea Babos 7-6 (4), 6-2, 12th-seeded Julia Goerges extended her winning streak to 15 matches with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Sofia Kenin, and No. 19 Magdalena Rybarikova beating Taylor Townsend 6-0, 7-5.

Davis leads Pelicans to victory over Knicks in OT



NEW YORK
(AP)—Anthony Davis' fullcourt heave after the third quarter was too late to give him points, though it gave him that unstoppable feeling great players get.

"I kind of saw it, but I mean you never really make those," Davis said of the shot he launched from just inside the opposite baseline. "So when it in I just kind of felt like tonight was definitely my night."

And thanks to his monster effort, it became the Pelicans', too.

Davis scored a season-high 48 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, leading New Orleans back from 19 points down late in the third quarter to a 123-118 overtime victory over the New York Knicks on Sunday.

Jrue Holiday added 31 points, and DeMarcus Cousins had 15 points, 16 rebounds, seven steals and five assists and for the Pelicans. They were down 16 after one, even further back late in the third and still down nine with 4 1/2 minutes left in regulation.

But they kept coming and Holiday had three baskets and a couple free throws in OT to help them finish it off.

"I thought we did a great job in the overtime," Pelicans

coach Alvin Gentry said. "AD was just huge for us, and when you get into those zones like that he's really good."

Kristaps Porzingis and Tim Hardaway Jr. each scored 25 points for the Knicks, who lost their third straight and 10th in their last 12 games. Jarrett Jack had a season-high 22 points, and Enes Kanter finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Five days after a double-overtime loss to Chicago in a game they led by 11, the Knicks coughed up another big lead in a miserable way to finish a rare January home game before they begin a seven-game, coast-to-coast trip Monday in Brooklyn that has them away for two weeks.

"I think we've just got to do a better job of when we're up 12, 15 points, we've got to take it to another level, another notch," Hardaway said. "We haven't been doing that these last couple of games."

The Knicks seemed in control late in a high-scoring third quarter, when they outscored the Pelicans 39-34. Hardaway's jumper gave New York a 96-77 lead with 1:22 remaining in the period, but New Orleans then went on a 17-4 run to cut it 100-94 mid-

way through the fourth.

The Pelicans then finished regulation with a 13-4 charge, tying the game on Davis' basket with 3.5 seconds remaining. New Orleans then nearly won it, as E'Twaun Moore stole an inbounds pass and launched a 3-pointer that rimmed out at the buzzer.

Holiday put New Orleans ahead for good with 1:52 to play in OT and Davis had the next basket, making it 120-117.

The Knicks, playing the first of back-to-back afternoon starts, jumped to a 29-13 lead after one quarter.

Heat 97, Bucks 79

In Miami, Goran Dragic scored 11 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and Miami ran its winning streak to seven games.

Josh Richardson scored 16 points, and Hassan Whiteside added 15 points and 10 rebounds. The Heat trailed 43-41 at the half, then took control with a 41-21 run in the first 16 minutes of the second half.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 22 points for Milwaukee.

Timberwolves 120, Trail Blazers 103

In Minneapolis, Jimmy

Butler scored 24 points, Jeff Teague added 22 and Minnesota wrapped up a perfect homestand with a victory over Portland.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 20 points and 11 rebounds for his NBA-leading 37th double-double of the season. The Wolves had their first 5-0 homestand since 2001, winning each game by double figures against the likes of New Orleans, Cleveland, Oklahoma City and New York.

Damian Lillard scored 21 points for Portland.

Pacers 120, Suns 97

In Phoenix, Darren Collison scored 19 points to help Indiana rout Phoenix.

Victor Oladipo scored 13 of his 17 points in the first half for the Pacers, who were coming off a home victory over Cleveland and have won four of five after a five-game losing streak.

Rookie Josh Jackson scored a career-best 21 points for Phoenix, which has lost four of five. Devin Booker added 15, but on 5-of-16 shooting. In an otherwise bad night for Phoenix, 17-year NBA veteran Tyson Chandler grabbed 14 rebounds to become the 40th player in league history to top 10,000 (10,003).

Donovan makes another stunning comeback

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Landon Donovan has always had a complicated relationship with soccer. It was the source of so much joy for him, but also of so much pressure.

He struggled with depression at times. The grind wore on him. So much so that the final few years of his career were interrupted by sabbatical and short-lived retirement.

Or, rather, have been interrupted by sabbatical and short-lived retirement. Short-lived retirements, in fact. Plural.

Apparently the joy has drawn Donovan back. The 35-year-old stunned the North American soccer world late Friday night with the news that he was coming out of retirement again, and this time embarking on a new journey. The most accomplished American outfield player ever is off to Mexico.

He has signed with Club Leon one week into the 2018 Liga MX Clausura. The player referred to by many Mexican fans as "Captain America"—and a player who on so many occasions was public enemy No. 1 south of

the border—will make a remarkable return to professional soccer with the seven-time Mexican champions.

Donovan, who has worked as an analyst for Fox Sports during retirement, announced his return on Twitter after spending a few days in Leon. He responded to the club's president with a message in Spanish: "I love the city. ... Club Leon is a historic and winning team. I don't believe in walls, I want to go to Mexico, wear green and win trophies with Leon. See you very soon!"

Donovan last played professional soccer in 2016. He had initially retired after the 2014 MLS season, but came out of retirement to re-join the Los Angeles Galaxy in September of 2016. He re-announced his retirement at the end of the Galaxy's 2016 playoff run. Now he's back again.

Recently, Donovan had considered running for U.S. Soccer president. He decided against it, but told Sports Illustrated he wanted to be involved with U.S. Soccer going forward. That was presumably before he began discussing another comeback with Leon.

Keenum-Diggs TD sends Vikings past Saints



MINNEAPOLIS

(A)—As Case Keenum convened the Minnesota huddle with 10 seconds left, the situation staring down the Vikings was as simple as it was daunting.

With the go-ahead field goal by the New Orleans Saints that silenced this deafening stadium still fresh in the air, the Vikings were well beyond any moment of anxiety. All that was left for Keenum to do on that last snap was to throw the ball up like he used to do in his Texas backyards and hope for the best.

Keenum completed his last-ditch heave near the sideline Sunday on the game's final play to Stefon Diggs, who slithered away from the Saints for a 61-yard touchdown to give the Vikings a 29-24 victory and a spot in the NFC championship game at Philadelphia.

"At that point, I'm just a kid throwing a football to another big kid," Keenum said with a smile, "and he just runs and scores."

One more win, against the Eagles, and the Vikings will become the first team to play in a Super Bowl on their home turf. Instead of the usual win-or-go-home stakes, they're in a win-and-go-home situation.

"It never ends that way," Diggs said. "Usually, it's reality. It's life. So things go and you walk home and worry it about tomorrow."

Instead, Drew Brees and the Saints were the ones trudging off the field in defeat.

"We're still a bit shell-shocked after what happened there at the end," said Brees, who steered the Saints in position for Wil Lutz's 43-yard kick with 25 seconds remaining that punctuating a forceful rally from a 17-point deficit that stood until 1:16 was left in the third quarter.

The field goal was set up by a fourth-and-10 completion by Brees to Willie Snead for 13 yards to the Minnesota 33 with 40 seconds left. Brees connected with Michael Thomas for two of his three touchdown passes in a span of 3:09 that spilled into the fourth quarter. The second score was set up at the Minnesota 40 by an interception by Marcus Williams, when an off-balance throw into traffic by Keenum served as his one costly moment of recklessness, a



AP
Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Stefon Diggs (14) makes a catch over New Orleans Saints free safety Marcus Williams (43) on his way to the game-winning touchdown during the second half of an NFL divisional football playoff game in Minneapolis, Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018. The Vikings defeated the Saints, 29-24.

and threw high into a crowd. Diggs jumped in front of Williams, who rolled awkwardly underneath Diggs during an ill-fated attempt at making a low tackle.

Devastatingly for the Saints, nobody was behind him in the secondary, as Diggs made sure to note right before he made the break on his route during the play the Vikings, believe it or not, call "Seven Heaven."

Diggs kept his balance as he landed, kept his feet in bounds and kept on running untouched into the end zone as the crowd at U.S. Bank Stadium erupted with euphoria. Keenum raced around the field, looking for anyone to hug.

"I'm shocked. I don't know what else to say. This is the first time ever I'm out of words," Vikings defensive end Everson Griffen said.

Keenum, the undrafted and undersized all-time leading passer in NCAA history who was making his first career playoff start and has long looked up to Brees, was having a hard time finding the words to describe the experience. He finished with 318 yards, going 25 for 40, with Diggs catching 137 yards on six catches.

"A heck of a game, wasn't it?" head coach Mike Zimmer said. "And the good guys won."

Diggs was still in full uniform when he took the podium for his postgame interview, the ball from the winning catch resting safely in front of him on the lectern.

"It's plays like this that you dream about your whole life," he said, "and it finally happens."

Brees saw his 13th career post-season game end in a crushing final moment, his 25-for-40 performance for 294 yards tainted a bit by two interceptions before halftime. One came on a leaping grab by safety Andrew Sendejo, the other off a tip by Griffen that landed in Anthony Barr's arms at the Minnesota 10-yard line midway through the third quarter.

"bonehead play," as he put it.

Keenum settled back in. He guided the Vikings to two more field goals by Kai Forbath, including a 53-yarder with 1:29 left that was his third of the game against his former team and gave them their lead back after a blocked punt by George Johnson had set up the Saints for a touchdown

pass by Brees to Alvin Kamara.

Then came the play that put Keenum and Diggs in permanent rotation on the NFL's all-time highlight reels.

"We knew there was still a possibility, still some hope," Keenum said.

This wasn't quite Franco Harris and the Immaculate Reception for the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1972

playoffs, but these Vikings are on some kind of special path after turning to Keenum in the second game of the season after original starter Sam Bradford was sidelined by a knee injury.

The Vikings were out of timeouts and nearly out of options when Keenum dropped back from his 39

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Jacksonville Jaguars heard the chatter, read the tweets and Instagram posts. And they got a little confused.

Why were the Pittsburgh Steelers talking about the New England Patriots? Didn't they have to face the Jaguars first before reaching a rematch with the Super Bowl champions?

"I don't know if they misread the schedule or didn't play us this week, but they didn't acknowledge us at all," Jacksonville linebacker Myles Jack said. "And we didn't take that too kindly."

Not at all. That shouldn't be a problem going forward.

The Jaguars, yes the Jag-

Jaguars stun Steelers 45-42 to earn trip to AFC title game

uars, have the NFL's full attention now. A trip to Foxborough on the horizon, too.

Dominant at the start and resilient at the finish, Jacksonville stunned the Steelers 45-42 on Sunday to advance to the AFC title game for the third time in franchise history and maybe, finally, earn a bit of respect.

Leonard Fournette ran for 109 yards and three scores. Embattled quarterback Blake Bortles added 214 yards passing and a pivotal fourth-quarter touchdown as the third-seeded Jaguars (12-6) beat the second-seeded Steelers (13-4) at Heinz Field for the second

time in three months.

The victory in October served notice Jacksonville was ready to put a decade of losing firmly behind. This one sent an even bigger message: overlook the Jaguars at your own peril, something Pittsburgh appeared to do in the run-up. Coach Mike Tomlin hinted at facing the Patriots twice back in December. Running back Le'Veon Bell posted on Twitter about the pair of "round 2s" the Steelers will face in coming weeks.

Turns out, one rematch is all the Steelers will get.

"We knew we had this team's number," Jackson-

ville safety Barry Church said. "All we did was feed on the fuel that everybody was providing, the media, everybody was talking about how they're going to run through us, it's not going to be like last (time). Blake Bortles this. Blake Bortles that. all he did was dominate their defense."

A week removed from an ugly performance in a wildcard round win over Buffalo in which he passed for 87 yards and struggled with the easiest of throws, Bortles went 14 of 26 for a touchdown without an interception. He ran for 35 more and wasn't sacked by a

defense that led the NFL and set a franchise record with 55 during the season. Jacksonville's 45 points tied the most ever allowed by the Steelers in the playoffs.

Not bad for an offense that at times simply appeared along for the ride as the NFL's top defense carried the load.

"Blake Bortles has always been criticized," Fournette said. "It is different now. He has guys that have his back, especially me."

Certainly looked it as Fournette scored two first-quarter touchdowns. The Jaguars built a 21-point lead and responded

whenever the Steelers rallied to get within one score.

"The guys played with confidence all day long," Bortles said. "Obviously, what they have on their side of the ball, it's a good team. We know they got a good offense. We knew we were going to have to be efficient, hold on to the ball for a little bit, so we did it."

Ben Roethlisberger threw for 469 yards and set a franchise record with five touchdown passes, but was also intercepted once and had a fumble returned for a score. All-Pro Antonio Brown caught seven passes for 132 yards and two touchdowns in his return from a left calf injury.

Fiesta Resort routs Lower Base, extends streak to six

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Top and bottom met with the leading Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan whipping cellar dweller Lower Base, 69-51, in the nightcap in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

With the convincing victory, Fiesta Resort stretched its winning streak to six, while Lower Base is still winless after six matches to remain at the bottom of the team standings.

Fiesta played without gunner Lerio Pagarao, but had no problems in getting their offense going as Paul Quizon and Troy Ngirarois were there to give the squad the needed baskets, while their teammates also contributed to the cause.

Quizon had a team-high 15 markers, while Ngirarois added 10. Eight straight markers from Quizon midway in the first half helped Fiesta build a good lead at the break, 36-24. Quizon started his string of points with a 2-pointer and followed it up with back-to-back shots from downtown.

Fiesta's eventual top-scorer was then held to two field goal



in the second half, but that did not prevent the tournament's

leader to lose control of the game, as Ngirarois finished

what Quizon started and drew lots of support from his team-

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Paul Quizon, right, challenges the defense of a Shirley's Coffee Shop player during their first round game in the 2017 Tan Holdings Inter-Company Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Fiesta duelled Lower Base last Friday and won, 69-51, to remain undefeated in the six-team field.

mates. Ngirarois poured all his 10 markers in the second half, while four of his teammates chipped in at least two field goals apiece to complete their domination of the hapless Lower Base.

Ricky Riungel had 20 mark-

ers in another losing effort for Lower Base, while Ed Echavez and Ariel Jinang also logged double figures with 11 and 10, respectively, but their baskets came with Fiesta in full command in the second half.

Fiesta Resort 69 — Quizon 15, Ngirarois 10, Arreza 8, Sedillo 6, Esdrelon 6, Nonato 5, Demafelix 5, Magat 3, Villamena 2, Francisco 2,

Lower Base 51 — Riungel 20, Echavez 11, Jinang 10, W. Benavente 4, Fujihira 4, Dowai 2.

Scoring by halves: 36-24, 69-51.

NMI

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in this year's Micro Games with athletics, outrigger canoe, table tennis, and weightlifting—events that offer a large portion of medals—having a combined 48 athletes and six coaches.

Athletics, during the NMSA meeting early this month, confirmed it will have seven male and seven female participants, while table tennis and weightlifting only committed their respective men's squads. Outrigger canoe will both have men's and women's teams with each group made up of nine paddlers.

Baseball will probably have the most number of athletes among the Commonwealth teams with its 21 players, while it will also send three coaches. Mariana Islands Basketball Federation will be having a 10-member team each in the men's and women's divisions, while beach volleyball will have a pair each in the men's and women's categories.

Indoor volleyball initially

expressed interest in sending teams in the men's and women's divisions, but missed this month's meeting and did not confirm its final entry, while Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation earlier listed 10 for the open ocean swim. The CNMI won't be having representatives in Micronesian All Around, soccer, spearfishing, and wrestling.

NMSA has yet to release the official number of Team CNMI's delegation as Yap Micro Games Organizing Committee's deadline for participating nations to confirm their final entries only expired yesterday.

Team CNMI delegates will head to Yap this year hoping to improve its medal output. The CNMI finished sixth in the standings during the 2014 Micronesian Games in Pohnpei with a total medal haul of 14 golds, 15 silvers, and five bronzes. The Commonwealth competed in athletics, baseball, basketball (men's and women's), outrigger canoe, spearfishing, swimming, and weightlifting.

TRAC to host pre-Tagaman event

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI will hold the 3rd Aquathlon and 10K Run on Jan. 27 at 6am at the Kili Beach Park.

The aquathlon features a 2.5-kilometer run, 1K swim, and 2.5K run, with registra-

tion fees of \$10 for individual participants and \$20 for each team. The 10K run is for individual runners only and participation costs \$10 each.

Medals and other prizes await the top finishers of the race,



which is the second of a series of warm-up races organized by TRAC leading up to the 2018 Tagaman set later this year.

Last December, TRAC held its first Road to Tagaman Race with the staging

of the 2nd Saipan Duathlon and triathlon regulars Charlie Sendin and Emily Northrop won the men's and women's crowns.

Tyce Mister and Ronald Villafria completed the men's Top 3, while Heather Brook and Claire Devey duplicated the feat in the women's side. (Jon Perez)

Ozuna excited to join playoff contender in St. Louis



ST. LOUIS (AP)—Marcell Ozuna knew he was likely to be traded when the Miami Marlins began their salary purge during the offseason, and he paid special attention to the rumors about where he might play this year.

The new St. Louis Cardinals outfielder couldn't be happier

with where he wound up, even if he'll always have a place in his heart for Miami.

"First thing, when I heard that they were trying to trade me to the Oakland A's, I said, 'Well, God, please, leave me over here,'" Ozuna said Sunday. "Then I heard that they traded me to the Cardinals, and said, 'OK, thanks.'"

Ozuna had good reason to be satisfied with the trade that brought him to St. Louis. Most notably, he left a Marlins team that hadn't finished within 15 games of a division title in his career for a city that knows little other than winning.

The Cardinals have had one losing season since the turn of

the century. And after missing the postseason for a second straight season last year—the first time St. Louis had missed the playoffs in back-to-back years since 2007-08—there was little doubt the team would do whatever it took to challenge the two-time NL Central champion Chicago Cubs.

large frame. He now stands at 6'1" and weighs 295 lbs.

The son of Akempek and Chombongkot Terry also studied at Marianas High School before moving to Washington State. He has applied to get into Portland State University where he also hopes to make it to the Vikings' football squad just like another CNMI's son, Savali Talalemotu.

"I would like to thank my family, friends, and coaches for believing in me that I can achieve something great," said Terry.

CFLA at the youth level with the Southern Thunder. He was definitely a big fish in a little pond even back then. Because of his size, he mostly played offensive line with the Southern Thunder, under his then head coach Jermaine Catching during his youth days."

Blanco added that Terry also used to suit up for the CNMI Sharks when they played against the Philippines and Guam.

"He got to play a lot more defense when he joined the

CNMI Sharks," Blanco said. "Without a doubt, and I feel his other coaches and teammates will also agree with me, that he is not only a great athlete on the field but a great person off the field as well. We are all proud of him and his accomplishments," Blanco added.

Terry, who graduated at San Vicente Elementary School, started playing football while he was at the then Hopwood Junior High School, choosing the sport since he felt that he could be good at it in using his

M&M

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last weekend.

M&M Salas drew points from almost all the players it fielded in the game to stretch its streak to six. The division-leading team, which has already secured one of the four playoff berths, will go for a sweep tomorrow when it takes on Saipan Vegas Extreme at 8pm.

Dean Blake top-scored in M&M Salas' easy victory with his 18 points, while Coby Santos, Aiferson Atan, and Kevin Kabiriel also finished in twin digits with 12, 11, and 10, respectively. The foursome's production were enough to outgun the entire 670 Sonics XVI, whose leading scorer was Ronald Bernardo (8 points).

670 Sonics XVI fell to a 2-4 record and with only one match left (versus sister team 670 Sonics XVIII) it may likely miss the playoffs. Only the Top 4 teams will move to

the playoff round and pending results of last night's matches, M&M Salas, 670 Sonics XVIII (4-1), Sun Palace (4-1), and Kanoa Resort (3-2) are at the top half of the team standings in the eight-squad field.

Third Game

GSM 47— E. Santos 12, An. Santos 10, D. Camacho 8, Camacho 4, Pangelinan 4, Kenty 3, Deleon Guerrero 2, Simran 2, A. Santos 2.

CTSI 24 — Watanabe 8, Alferos 6, Alegre 3, Espinosa 2, Pablo 2, Sabino 1.

Scoring by halves: 26-10, 47-24.

Fourth Game

M&M Salas 94 — Blake 18, Santos 12, Atan 11, Kabiriel 10, Abejo 9, Siech 8, Saccalan 8, Manalo 6, Bondoc 4.

670 Sonics XVI 37 — Bernardo 8, Dancel 8, Favor 4, Inos 3, Mendoza 3, Chavez 2, Seo 2.

Scoring by halves: 45-19, 94-37.

CFL

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The former Saipan resident also earned First Team and All-League spots as a defensive lineman in his first season with the Eagles and helped his squad to a 5-4 record, their first winning season in more than 10 years.

Blanco said Terry's size was one of his advantages aside from his work ethic, and overall attitude on and off the field.

"He did play here under the

9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic Week 2

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Bobby Cruz goes for a backhand return to Robbie Schorr during their men's open singles semis game in Week 2 of the 9th Annual TanHoldings Tennis Classic at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.



Vincent Tudela hits a shot back to Ken Song during their men's open singles game.



Steven Goodwin returns a shot from Mason Caldwell.



Guam's Mason Caldwell catches the ball during his and Camden Camacho's men's open doubles match versus Saipan's Vincent Tudela and Steven Goodwin.



Lydia Tan makes a return during her and Sam Lai's mixed doubles over 40 game against Otohe Mizuyo and Don Castillo.



Eric Abragan eyes his target during his and son Joshua's men's doubles 4.0 tiff versus Andy Cho and Alex Park.



Lydia Tan, left, and David Lai, exchange high-fives after scoring a point against Sally Lee and George Lai in the mixed doubles 50-and-above division.



Robbie Schorr hits back during his men's open singles title game against Moris Villanueva.



Venus, Stephens
ousted in
Australian Open

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Keenum-Diggs
TD sends Vikings
past Saints

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

M&M Salas, GSM still perfect

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

M&M Salas Ol'Aces is a win away from sweeping the eliminations, while the GSM Lady Ol'Aces is also undefeated in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament as they waltzed past their respective opponents last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



M&M Salas improved its record to 6-0 after crushing 670 Sonics XVI in their boys division game, 94-37, while GSM Lady Ol'Aces also earned a lopsided win over CTSI in the girls division match, 47-24, for a perfect 7-0 card.

Sisters Eleina and Anna Lei Santos scored in double figures to keep the GSM Lady Ol'Aces' win streak. Eleina had a game-high 12 points, while Anna Lei chipped in 10, drilling 8 of them in the first half where the Lady Ol'Aces established a big lead, 26-10.

The Go See Mark-sponsored squad went on to pad its lead in the second half with Eleina picking up where her sister left off and their other teammates also stepping up. Eleina had a string of 6 points early in the second half to add to CTSI's woes, while five other GSM Lady Ol'Aces players also hit the board in the final 20 minutes of the one-sided game.

With CTSI failing to counter GSM Lady Ol'Aces' shooting, no player from the latter broke into double figures, as Nanaka Watanabe only mustered a

team-high 8 markers. CTSI dropped to third place in the team standings with its 4-3 record, behind the 5-2 of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and the 7-0 of GSM.

Meanwhile, M&M Salas

moved closer to a sweep of the round-robin elimination after more than doubling the 670 Sonics XVI's output in the second boys division game

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CFL official hopes to see more improvement from Terry



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Former Saipan resident Angel Terry, seen here wearing a Hudson's Bay High School Eagles jersey, hopes to play in the collegiate ranks.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GSM Lady Ol'Aces' Eleina Santos, right, attempts an and-1 shot against a CTSI defender during the first half of their game in the 2017 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



NMI eyes over 100 delegates to Micro Games

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is looking to send more than 100 athletes, coaches, and officials to the 2018 Micronesian Games, set from July 15 to 28 in Colonia, Yap.

This is Yap's first time to host the region's quadrennial games, with the opening and closing ceremonies to be held at the 2,000-seater Yap Sports Complex. The national stadium would also host competitions in the medal rich athlet-

ics event.

In the Participation Survey Compilation sent out by Yap's organizing committee, 1,636 delegates from Palau, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Guam, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, Yap, and the CNMI may gather for the ninth edition of the quadrennial event. Out of this number, the CNMI initially listed, 119 athletes—70 male and 49 female—16 coaches, and six officials. Team CNMI will be competing in nine sports

See NMI on Page 26



The track oval at the 2,000-seater Yap Sports Complex will host teams competing in the athletics event in the 2018 Micronesian Games, which will run from July 15 to 28.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Commonwealth Football League Association official John Blanco is hoping former youth player Angel Terry's career would further improve as he moves to the collegiate ranks.

Terry, who lived on Saipan before moving to Vancouver City in Washington State, is in his senior year with Hudson's Bay High School Eagles. He was named the 2017 Class 3A Greater St. Helens League Big School Lineman of the Year in an article published in the *Clark County Today*.

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